

1996 OCT 3

Page 24

Spitting
spat puts
play-offs
in a spin

Baseball

A threat by umpires to have
the play-offs after a player
called out at the last minute.
They were urged by the
batting of an incident involving
the Baltimore Orioles' slugger
and his manager, Roberto Alomar,
and an umpire, at
Hirschbeck, on Friday.
Following an argument
a decision, Alomar quit
and bumped Hirschbeck a
later suggested that the
umpire's impartiality had been
compromised by his bias
over the death of his eight-year-old
son. An umpire
Hirschbeck had to be
strained from storming
the Orioles dressing-room.
The union chief, Rob
Phillips, said that umpires
leave in games if a five-game
penalty of Alomar did not
begin immediately.
However, the union president,
Jerry Crawford, said the
umpires would honour a
order to return to work as
expected, the League management
planned a ruling this
morning.

Alomar has apologized for
behaviour and, because he
appealed against the suspension,
was being allowed to
until the 1997 regular season.
"Our executive board has
unanimously decided to
suspend Alomar for 10
games until the 1997
season begins," Phillips
said. "All the umpires in
the American League and
National League were
locked out of the umpire
year, were dismissed
All the umpires in the
"We will have these
Rich" even, the public
director, but Major League
Baseball said "We expect
to honour their contract."
The first play-off was
held yesterday in Baltimore
between the Orioles and
Cleveland Indians.

Alomar's appeal was
two-page statement in
the Orioles' clubhouse
disrespectful conduct
man that I have no
as an umpire. I
by, he has no right
in I have to make a
jobs. Now with standing
carried. I have respect
him and his profession,"
he said.
"Hirschbeck was the only
umpiring staff at the
After appeals, Alomar
in the 19th century on
giving the Orioles the
needed to be a group
can League with other



Independent decade:
Starting on Monday, we will be
celebrating 10 great years

Details, page three

**A tale of two
speeches**

Page 10



THE INDEPENDENT

3,107

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 1996

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Queen's politics revealed

PAUL VALLEY

The Queen has been a significant political influence in Britain throughout her reign and in general she has used to push government policy to the left, according to a major new biography of the monarch by historian Ben Pimlott.

The influence has been behind the scenes and always subtle. But its general drift is clear and not confined to attempts to temper the excesses of the later years of Thatcherism. The sovereign is, as Professor Pimlott yesterday put it, "in her own way, a bit of a lefty".

The book, which is being serialised in *The Independent* over three days, starting today, is based on 85 interviews with members of the royal family, senior courtiers and the Queen's closest friends. Many of the interviews were



facilitated by Buckingham Palace, which also allowed unprecedented access to the royal archives.

Pimlott, professor of politics and contemporary history of Birkbeck College at the University of London, reveals that the monarch questioned the wisdom of the British invasion of Suez in 1956. She expressed anger at the Government's acquiescence in the US invasion of Grenada in 1983. She made it clear she was out of sympathy with Margaret Thatcher's opposition to sanctions against South Africa. And she let it be known that she was concerned over the general drift of Thatcherism, which she saw as dam-

aging Britain with its uncaring attitude towards the underprivileged.

The Queen also made the Thatcher government aware that she thought it was undermining the Commonwealth and threatening the consensus in British politics which she thinks has served the country well since the Second World War.

The role of the monarch as part of the system of checks and balances which have developed in the British constitution has, in previous times, always been perceived as a check on left-wing politicians. "George VI's 'grasping' had sometimes focused on the Labour government's attacks on private property, and the Queen Mother continued happily to talk to all comers about the misdeeds of communists and left-wingers in the Labour Party or at the BBC," Pimlott writes.

But the present Queen has acted more consistently as a check on the right. Her position over Suez was far from neutral in the face of Sir Anthony Eden's insistence on a dying thrush of Empire by invading Egypt. "I think the Queen believed Eden was mad," the book quotes one senior courtier as saying.

In more recent times the Queen made it clear that she thought the Thatcher government should be more caring towards the poor and that she had feared that serious long-term damage was being done to the social fabric of the nation during the 1984 miners' strike. She also had doubts about the decision to allow the Americans to use British airbases for a raid on Libya in April 1986.

The Queen's displeasure was expressed with circumspection but, in the circumstances, it was no less forceful for that. "She did not directly criticise the Government's plans. But she measured her response to them," Pimlott writes. "She would often express, or hint at, her own opinion by asking a leading question, or referring to somebody else who held an alternative view. If she approved she would say so, positively. Disapproval was indicated by a significant failure to comment."

Such was the Queen's style in general, the book reveals. Unlike her husband, the Queen seldom indicated directly what she wanted to happen. "She has excellent passive judgement," one former courtier says. She expects others to make suggestions, and then she reacts with caution, reserving her



most positive responses for ideas which fit her own needs precisely.

Pimlott reserves his greatest criticism of the Queen for her role in the back-room handover of power between the Tory premiers Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home. She allowed Macmillan to dupe her in what Pimlott describes as "the biggest political misjudgement of her reign". As a result of "the Macmillan-Home débâcle" the Conservatives changed their method of selecting their leader. This put an end to the monarch's discretionary power in the choice of a prime minister in normal circumstances.

But, he argues, the manoeuvrings around the formation of the minority Labour government in 1974 show that the monarch still retains a significant role. Though the Queen's prerogative powers were never invoked a belief in the possibility that they might be played an important part in the inter-party political poker game. In the multi-party conditions thrown up by a volatile electorate - and in the event of a hung parliament at the next general election - it might be a crucial one. Queen and Country, pages 18 and 19

The lobbyist and the MPs' hired help

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Ian Greer, the controversial lobbyist at the centre of the cash for questions scandal, sent his staff out to work for MPs and ministers during the last general election campaign.

As well as making cash donations to MPs' fighting funds, Mr Greer encouraged staff to leave the office for the three-week duration of the election battle and to work for prominent politicians. They continued to receive full pay from his firm, Ian Greer Associates, and their services were provided to the MPs for free.

Four Tories and the Shadow front-bencher Chris Smith benefited from the secondment scheme. Mr Greer yesterday confirmed the following secondments had been made: John Fraser worked for Christopher Chope; Paddy Gilford helped John Bown; Jeremy Sweeney assisted Sir Graham Bright; Richard Jukes worked on Colin Moynihan's campaign and Robbie MacDuff was on Mr Smith's team. "It was great work experience for them to be involved at the sharp end of politics," explained Mr Greer.

A former Greer employee said it was the firm's policy to wind down the office in London while the campaign was on and to farm out employees to MPs.

With little lobbying to do at Westminster and all eyes on the election battle, there was little point, said the ex-Greer executive, in attempting to carry on as usual. In common with other lobbying firms, Greer's staff were themselves politically active and wanted to get out and fight their cause. Other lobbying firms, he said, also followed a similar practice of allowing their staff to help MPs.

Further evidence of the close ties between Mr Greer and Neil Hamilton came with the disclosure by another ex-member of his firm that Commons

notepaper from the MP was held at the lobbyist's office. The ex-Greer staff member said Mr Hamilton's notepaper was kept in the offices of Mr Greer and his deputy, Andrew Smith. He did not know what it had been used for, Mr Greer would not comment about Mr Hamilton's notepaper.

Last night, Mr Hamilton spared the Government's blushes by pulling out at the last minute from a long-standing invitation to attend a reception at No 10. His presence at the event, organised by the right-wing think-tank, the Adam Smith Institute, would clearly have been an embarrassment to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday Mr Hamilton admitted he had received £10,000 from Mr Greer, despite having originally denied to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, that he had a financial relationship with the lobbyist.

Mr Greer denied the money was for questions to be tabled in the Commons. He said it was a "thank you" for bringing in business for his agency, Ian Greer Associates.

The Harrods boss, Mohamed Al Fayed, yesterday stepped up the pressure on Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer by claiming in a statement that he had paid £18,000 to Mr Greer. He said he had paid the money after being told by Mr Greer that MPs could be hired "in the same way as you hail a taxi".

At its Blackpool conference, Labour repeated calls for state funding of political parties. Delight at Tory discomfiture over Mr Greer's links with Tory MPs was tempered by the disclosure that he had made donations to the local campaigns of Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and Mr Smith.

Mr Hoyle, a member of the Select Committee on Members' Interests, and not the Privileges Committee as had been reported, was robustly defending his friendship with Mr Greer.

QUICKLY

Allwood loses babies
Mandy Allwood, the woman who became pregnant with octuplets after taking fertility drugs, yesterday finally lost all of the babies that she was expecting. Page 3

Castle outvoted
The former Cabinet minister, Baroness Castle, last night lost the vote after she brought the Labour conference in Blackpool to its feet with a fighting call for pensions to be linked to rises in earnings under a Labour government. Page 4

Ban on widow 'cruel'
Banning a young widow from bearing a child using her dead husband's sperm would be "cruel and unnatural", a leading fertility expert said as the woman launched a court battle against the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. Page 6

Yeltsin successor
As Boris Yeltsin nurses his damaged heart in the run-up to his operation, a presidential race is already under way among those who hope to fill his shoes. Page 11

Medical school crisis
One in 10 professional chairs in British medical schools are vacant and scores of other teaching posts are unfilled because universities can no longer afford to match NHS salaries for doctors. Page 8

Millions will lose out as insurers rush to go public

PETER RODGERS
and NIC CUTTIT

The rush to the Stock Exchange by mutual insurance societies as they convert themselves into public companies is likely to lead to millions of policyholders losing out.

On the day that Norwich Union announced its £4.5bn float on the Stock Exchange, an investigation conducted for *The Independent* found that mutual societies are much more likely to give top payouts on life insurance policies than conventional companies of the type Norwich is to become. It raised questions about whether policyholders will benefit from conversions by mutual societies.

The survey was carried out by John Chapman, a former official at the Office of Fair Trading. Three of the top four in Mr Chapman's rankings - Equitable Life, Norwich Union and Standard Life - are mutuals. Six of the top 10 are also mutuals, and a further company in the top 10, Scottish Mutual, was owned by its policyholders until four years ago.

At the other end of the scale, four of the bottom five are proprietary companies, and are among the biggest names - Royal Insurance, Sun Life, Prudential and Britannia Life.

In total, seven of the bottom 10 are proprietary companies in Mr Chapman's specially devised rankings.

Under mutual status which Norwich has abandoned, the insurance group is owned by its policyholders and pays no dividends to shareholders.

Proprietary insurance companies are owned by shareholders, either directly through the stock market, or as subsidiaries of other companies.

Mr Chapman says his ranking "shows the strength of the mutuals. After all, they ought to outperform proprietary companies. They do not have to give away 10 percent of their earnings in transfers to shareholders." Proprietary companies are allowed a share in the profits of the life insurance funds they run.

Norwich Union, which celebrates its 200th anniversary next year, originated in 1797 as Norwich Union Fire Insurance, founded by Thomas Bagnold, a City of London wine merchant who had moved to Norwich and had spotted a gap in the market.

Until the Norwich announcement, insurance companies have been slow to follow the lead of the building societies by abandoning their mutual status.

Building societies that have converted include Abbey National and Cheltenham & Gloucester, and next year the Halifax, the biggest of all the societies, will become a stock market-quoted bank.

Although some other leading mutual insurers, such as Standard Life, insist they have no plans to convert, there was a similar initial reaction by other top building societies to Abbey National's pioneering decision.

Industry experts believe that the pressure will soon mount on other insurers to join the stock market.

TOP 5 PERFORMERS


Rank	Company	Policyholders	Dividends
1	Equitable Life	9	15
2	General Accident	22	40
3	Norwich Union	6	10
4	Standard Life	5	9
5	Scottish Mutual	3	7

BOTTOM 5 PERFORMERS


Rank	Company	Policyholders	Dividends
1	Royal Insurance	5	9
2	Sun Life	3	9
3	Prudential	3	7
4	Mutual Life	3	7
5	Britannia Life	3	6

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Sounds familiar: John Lichfield had a preview of Tony Blair's speech - from Bill Clinton four years ago. Page 10

news

New York arms haul linked to IRA

DAVID McKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

Police in New York have seized a substantial cache of weapons which they believe may have been intended for the IRA, while Gardai in the Irish Republic yesterday discovered mortar equipment close to the border.

The American seizure took place in the Queens district of New York on Monday, netting

two semi-automatic Uzi sub-machineguns, together with other material.

Police have charged two Irish-Americans, who have been named as Patrick McGinley, 33, and Adrian Gallagher, 39.

Police in the Queens district, where the arrests were made, confirmed they were investigating a connection with the IRA.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said: "It would

be premature to suggest where it is that the investigation will lead.

"Suffice it to say that we do not believe that a cache of weapons of this magnitude can be viewed in a vacuum. We intend to follow all investigative leads to determine under what circumstances and why it is that the defendants amassed this small arsenal of weapons and ammunition."

In the Irish Republic, meanwhile, police discovered 21 mortar tubes and eight frames used to launch mortars in an underground bunker on farmland at Hackballscross, not far from the border with South Armagh.

A police spokesman said the find was made after a continuing search operation along the border. He added that no explosives were found in the bunker and that the mortars were not primed.

Whether the mortar equipment was simply being stored or was ready for imminent use, the discoveries in both the Republic and the United States will increase concerns that the IRA is actively planning a new offensive.

Security forces have been placed on a high state of alert since the recent discovery of a major IRA explosives cache in England.

The body of Diarmuid O'Neill, who was shot dead by police during the police operation in London, yesterday arrived at Cork airport under tight security arrangements.

His parents, Owen and Theresa, together with his sister Siobhan and brother Shane, travelled on the flight carrying the coffin.

Earlier police officers searched the airport and its grounds, including the morgue where the coffin is to be kept.



Height of fashion: Rasheed Araeen beneath his giant sculpture, *To Who It May Concern*, which is being constructed in front of the Serpentine Gallery in west London, for display from next Monday until 1 December. The huge, box structure uses 1,000 modules made of scaffolding that includes a maze at ground level. Photograph: Tom Pilon

significant shorts

BBC faces huge bill after Aids battle

A seven-year legal battle over a television documentary into an alleged Aids cure clinic ended in victory for the BBC yesterday - but leaves them facing a legal bill of up to £800,000.

The last of three "victims" of the joint *Watchdog* and *New Statesman* investigation, which led to a doctor being struck off for serious professional misconduct, abandoned his action for libel against the Corporation and the magazine.

Senior management at BBC television are understood to be angry that such huge amounts of licence payers' money had to be spent defending themselves against what some observers saw as unwinnable legal actions.

No charges over unlawful custody death

Police officers will not be charged over the death of a man in custody, despite an inquest jury's decision that he was unlawfully killed.

The Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence for proceedings over the death of 37-year-old Richard O'Brien, who died after being arrested in Walsworth, south London, in April, 1994.

Last November the inquest jury returned an unlawful killing verdict and a transcript of the proceedings was passed to the CPS, which had previously decided against bringing any proceedings following an investigation supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

Lottery cash for individuals

Lottery money will go to individuals for the first time under a scheme announced by the Millennium Commission yesterday. Grants totalling £8.6m will be made to six leading charities who will invite applications from individuals "to enable them to achieve a personal goal while doing something for the whole community".

Millennium Commissioner Lord Dalkeith said the schemes could range from environmental work to interactive science projects. The six charities are: Help The Aged, Raleigh International Trust, The Royal Society, British Association for the Advancement of Science (in a joint scheme), The Farmington Institute, Techniquet, and Earthwatch Europe. David Lister

Barclay twins challenge law

The secretive brothers David and Frederick Barclay yesterday launched a High Court challenge against the Broadcasting Complaints Commission after their Channel Island home was "invaded" by reporter John Sweeney, who was making the media programme *The Spin*.

The twins, 61, who spent millions building a Gothic castle on the uninhabited island, of Breckhou lodged a protest with the commission last year, but were told nothing could be done until after the programme had been broadcast.

The pair are now seeking a judicial review of the section of the Broadcasting Act, which governs the BCC's powers. Mr. Justice Sedley reserved his ruling to a later date. *Charlie Bain*

Indecency suspect dead

A man under investigation by police over indecent assaults on young children died after he was struck in the face with a crossbow bolt. A police spokeswoman said no one else was being sought in connection with the death of the 77-year-old in a flat on the New Parks Estate, Leicester.

The man was visited by two police officers who wanted to question him about recent attacks on two girls and a boy in west London. After they were refused entry by the man, they used a master key to enter. They discovered him lying with a crossbow bolt through his eye. *Michael Street*

Return to Glastonbury

The Glastonbury Festival is to return next year, after being cancelled this summer, with places for an extra 20,000 music fans. Michael Eavis, the Somerset farmer who runs the mammoth event, said he was planning one of the highest "park and ride" schemes seen in this country to free-up land for festival-goers.

The move will increase the capacity from 80,000 to 100,000 for the festival, on 27, 28 and 29 June. The cream of Britpop, including Blur and Oasis, played at Glastonbury last year, although no bands have yet been lined up for 1997.

Banks 'failing customers'

Banks are still making an "unacceptably high" number of basic mistakes, despite efforts to improve customer service, the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

Standing orders and direct debits were the source of most errors, according to its magazine, *Which?* Other common mistakes included incorrect charges, new cheque books and guarantee cards not sent or posted to the wrong addresses.

Unauthorised debits from accounts and statement errors.

Rail union set to strike

Rail services in Scotland will be affected by an overtime ban by members of the RMT union from 14 October. The decision to ask for an "indefinite" ban by conductors and ticket examiners was the latest twist to the long-running dispute over rewards for increased responsibility.

Camelot faces Ofot action

The Lottery regulator, Peter Davis, is considering taking action against Camelot for failing to install scratchcard verifying machines in shops over a number of months, an omission which he claims is costing "good causes" money.

MPs protest their innocence over cash

Members give their side of the story over lobbyist's money. Report by JoJo Moyes and Ian Burrell

These are the MPs who had between £500 and £5,000 paid into their 1987 general election campaign funds by Ian Greer, the parliamentary lobbyist in the "cash-for-questions" case. Yesterday they gave their reasons for accepting the money.

Sir Gerry Vaughan (C) Reading East: "Those sorts of contributions go straight to a fighting fund and are handled by my agent. I was not even aware that it came from Mr Greer. It never crossed my mind that he might expect anything in return."

Sir Neil Thorne (C) Ilford South until 1992: "During my five general elections I must have had to raise about £40,000 to cover my legal election expenses and I just do not know who has contributed to that. I had no idea at all that it came from Ian Greer, certainly no idea that it had come from someone else, particularly Mr Fayed."

Ken Warren (C) Hastings and Rye until 1992: "I assumed it was based on our acquaintanceship over a period of 30 years. I have never worked for his company at any time or any of his associates. I'm very annoyed."

David Shaw (C) Dover: "It was not really what one regards as significant, and certainly I had done nothing for him in Parliament. I had attended, I think, a drinks party of his at some stage. I have done nothing since for him."

Sir Malcolm Thornton (C) Crosby, chairman of the Education Select Committee: "We don't quiz individual contributions, we just say 'thank you'."

Sir Andrew Bowden (C)

Gerry Bowden, former MP for Dulwich: "Greer made a contribution among hundreds of others to the fighting fund... He was personally interested in getting a Tory government elected."

Shadow health secretary Chris Smith: "I have never received any money personally. No favours have ever been asked, and there would have been a very robust rebuttal if they had tried."

Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said: "Nothing was paid directly to me. I didn't ask for the donation. Nothing has been given in return for the donation."

Alan Belth (LD) Berwick-upon-Tweed: "My local association received a donation to the general election appeal from Ian Greer, or his company, in 1987." No contact since.

Sir David Trippier (C) Rossendale and Darwen, Minister for Small Businesses until 1987: "Money came in from Ian Greer as it did from various

sources... If *The Independent* had sent me the money I would probably have accepted it."

Michael Portillo, (C) Enfield, Defence Secretary: Declined to comment.

Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development: "She will not be commenting until she returns [from Norway]."

Lord Tebbit, former Tory party chairman: Unavailable for comment.

Sir Anthony Durrant (C) Reading West: "Assumed he had sent it out of friendship; that it was a generous offer and had nothing to do with anything else."

The office of Gerry Malone (C) Winchester: "Nothing further to add to what is in the paper."

Nirj Deva (C) Brentford: "The money comes into the association and the candidate never knows where the money is coming from. I suppose Greer was trying to be seen as a good fellow."

The agent for David Mellor (C) Putney: "It was from Mr Greer as a constituent in Putney and was received in all good faith."

Norman Lamont (C) Kingston-upon-Thames: "I think it is a row about nothing. Mr Greer is a Conservative, and I was hardly surprised that he made a donation to the party."

Lord Moore, John Lee, Colin Moynihan: either unavailable or declined to comment.



Ian Greer: 'Wanted to be known as a good chap'

Greer smoothed path for DHL

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Dave Allen, who gave £11,000 to Ian Greer to pass on to the fighting funds of MPs, has made a fortune from his large shareholding in DHL, the express courier business.

His firm is Mr Greer's oldest client and has been one of the most lucrative accounts for the controversial lobbyist.

Mr Greer organised Parliamentary lunches on DHL's behalf and introduced the company to senior politicians. This was part of a drive by Mr Allen to raise DHL's profile in

an increasingly competitive industry. Mr Greer also ensured the company was up to speed on any legislative changes. The sale of Parcelforce from the Post Office was a major lobbying issue, with DHL keen to ensure it did not go to a rival.

One of its wheezes was to take a stand at the party conferences and within minutes of a key speaker sitting down, make their text available to delegates. This year at the Labour conference, while controversy about Mr Greer raged around Blackpool, his client had its usual place in the exhibition hall.

Mr Allen remains firmly in the background, eschewing all personal publicity. Well-known in high Tory circles, he is thought to be a strong supporter, although DHL was at pains to stress yesterday that the firm is politically neutral.

His firm said it "enjoys excellent relations with all three main political parties and it does not make any donations to any fighting funds. DHL (UK) is an apolitical company and works to build understanding of our business within the political framework existing within the UK".



Dave Allen: Gave £11,000 to Greer to pass on to MPs

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Allwood loses five remaining babies

GLENDA COOPER

Mandy Allwood, the woman who became pregnant with octuplets after taking fertility drugs, yesterday finally lost all the babies she was expecting.

Earlier, doctors had warned that it would take a "miracle" for any of the foetuses to survive after she began miscarrying on Monday night.

In a stark handwritten statement, King's College Hospital,

London, said: "We regret to announce that Mandy Allwood has now lost her four remaining babies." She had miscarried three foetuses on Monday and had lost another baby earlier yesterday.

Ms Allwood's case first came to light in August after she approached the publicist Max Clifford, who sold her story to the *News of the World*, sparking a heated debate about both the ethics of fertility treatment and

the role that the tabloid played in her decision to try to carry all eight babies to full term.

She had become pregnant with octuplets after being prescribed fertility drugs, apparently without the knowledge of her partner, Paul Hudson.

Medical experts advised her strongly against continuing the pregnancy with all eight foetuses, saying the chances of all the babies being born alive and well were virtually non-exis-

tent. They added that risks to the health of the mother in multiple births were also high.

But Ms Allwood decided to go against their advice to selectively terminate up to six foetuses and, in a deal reportedly worth £350,000, appeared on the front page of the Sunday tabloid declaring "I'm going to have all my eight babies".

Pro-life groups applauded her decision as she said: "I won't choose which ones should

live and which ones should die. I know that some people will call us irresponsible, but there are risks either way."

Even after losing the first three of her babies, she insisted she had no regrets about trying to carry all eight foetuses to term.

But her gynaecologist, Professor Kypros Nicolaides, had warned in August that the intense media interest could endanger Ms Allwood's health,

and urged the *News of the World* to withdraw from its contract.

It was said that the paper had negotiated a "sliding scale" deal with the couple, offering more money if Ms Allwood gave birth to a larger number of babies. Fears that this may have influenced Ms Allwood's decision to go ahead with the high-risk pregnancy were increasingly voiced.

But Phil Hall, editor of the *News of the World* said it was

"completely ridiculous" to say that, and that Ms Allwood had made her decision to let nature take its course. He said the money offered to Ms Allwood was "nothing like what had been quoted", and told the BBC earlier this week that if she did lose all her babies, the deal was not necessarily off.

"The deal with her is that we discuss as we go along," he said, "and if as a result of losing her eight babies, she needs some

medical care as she wants to go away for a couple of weeks' holiday then, certainly, we might be prepared to talk to her about that. But there's no sort of situation where she's going to make a lot of money."

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said the loss of the babies was a sad but "healthier" outcome for both Mandy Allwood and society than if selective termination had been agreed.

A prize tuned to new symphonies



Mstislav Rostropovich and the conductor Sir Colin Davis, with (right) the composer James Macmillan during rehearsal. Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

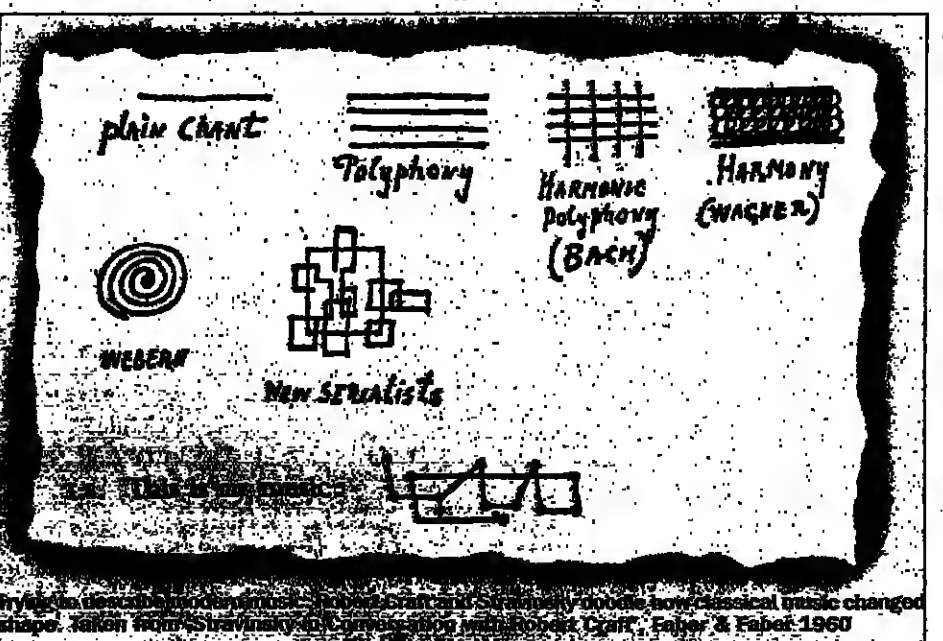
Malcolm Hayes, composer and critic, wonders whether the competition can overcome audience prejudice

Unbearable madness of modernity

Who exactly did modern music start turning audiences off?

For many would-be listeners today, the music written in turn-of-the-century Vienna, and especially the early works of those serial revolutionaries Schoenberg, Webern and Berg, marks the point at which classical composers started sounding seriously "modern". It is mad, however convincingly Sir Simon Rattle may seek to justify classical music's move to modernism in his Sunday evening Channel 4 series, *Leaving Home*, there seems little doubt that, in leaving behind the comfortable "home" of tonality, many of this century's major composers have left most of their potential audience behind as well.

But all may not be lost. Another landmark of musical modernism was the first performance of Stravinsky's ballet *The Rite of Spring* in Paris in May 1913. The result was the most famous riot in musical his-



By the time of the first performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* in Paris in May 1913, the result was the most famous riot in musical history. Yet, eight decades later, managers of London's orchestras will tell you that *The Rite* is one of the handful of 20th-century masterpieces that will fill a concert hall.

The very same work whose primitivist violence so outraged its first audience has now become a crowd-pulling classic. That said, much other music composed this century (not least the 12-tone scores of Arnold Schoenberg and his

school) still meets with stiff resistance even from dedicated concert-goers.

Not that style wars are the only way of deciding which works enter the repertoire and which don't. Elgar's music is cherished by its admirers (and *Last Night Proms*) as quintessentially English, ie tonal, traditional and reassuring. Within a year of its 1908 premiere, Elgar's First Symphony, for example, was played over 100

times in England and abroad - especially in Germany. Then came the First World War, and Elgar has been virtually unplayed in Germany ever since.

By contrast, Mahler, whose works are now among the surest of symphonic crowd-pleasers, was largely excluded from this country's concert halls until less than 30 years ago.

Given these bizarre and ambiguous messages from 20th-century musical history, can a

newly created composition prize change anything?

Enter John McLaren, a director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and former diplomat, whose passion for music in general is matched by a concern about widespread audience unease with 20th-century music in particular. The result is Masterprize, a competition to whet the appetite of every composer on the planet.

But will it make any difference? John Casken, the Yorkshire-born composer who was also chairman of the jury of the composing competition for the BBC's *Young Musicians 96* said: "What matters about competitions is what comes after. The four winning composers in *Young Musicians* have all been commissioned to write something else for performance by the BBC. The razzmatazz of competitions may be exciting, but you really need this element of further development."

"In that respect, the idea of giving plenty of exposure to all the short-listed works in Masterprize is a good one. It really will draw attention to what composers are trying to do in an increasingly difficult and in many ways hostile world."

Would he hazard a guess as to how many might enter? "With a £25,000 prize, it'll be interesting to see if there's anyone who doesn't!"

DAVID LISTER
arts news editor

A £25,000 prize to encourage contemporary composers to create new works for symphony orchestras was launched in London yesterday. The patron of the new international competition entitled Masterprize is the world renowned cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich.

The competition is the brainchild of John McLaren, an investment banker, writer and music lover, who became "distressed" over a long period at the "rift" that was evident between modern composers, orchestras, programmes, broadcasters and audiocases. He has gathered partners including BBC Radio3, EMI record company, the London Symphony Orchestra and BBC Music Magazine.

Fifteen short-listed works will be broadcast on Radio3; the six finalist pieces will be performed by the LSO and distributed as a CD with BBC Music Magazine, guaranteeing a world-wide circulation of some 200,000. And EMI has promised to release the winning composition.

It has not yet been decided who will be on the final judging panel; but the LSO will certainly be represented, and the winner will be selected through equal vote by the public (voting after they hear the CD and the radio broadcasts) and the celebrity jury. It is hoped to run the contest every two years, with the help of commercial sponsorship, though at present only the first contest is guaranteed.

Mstislav Rostropovich has performed 104 new compositions and conducted 56 in his career. Speaking at the launch in Loodoo yesterday, he said: "I am sure we have a new Britten, a new Messiaen, a new Bernstein, but we don't know who these people are. I rejoice in this brilliant concept. I am particularly delighted that composers all over the world of every age can use their creative powers, knowing that their work will be recorded and go into the repertoire."

Mr McLaren, the chairman of Masterprize, added: "Right now too little music is winning enough hearts and minds to secure an assured place in the world repertoire. Masterprize creates a uniquely powerful channel for composers to win over large numbers of music lovers, and make them want to hear their music again and again."

One contemporary classical composer at the launch was 28-year-old Roxanna Parvnik, London based composer of chamber music, ballet and opera. She said that although she had many commissions she had not had a commercial recording. "Many of my composer friends feel ignored, but good work is being composed. Goretski is very spiritual. In the nineties audiences want this spiritual feeling in music and there are many contemporary composers who can supply that."

Composers wishing to enter should write to: Masterprize, PO Box 12713, London, NW6 6WR.



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in a police cell, have been
cleared of any wrongdoing.
The woman, who was
detained in a police cell
for 12 hours, was found
dead in a police cell in
April 1994.

Barclay twin
challenge law

The secret to the success
of the Barclay twin
challenge law, which
allows a twin to challenge
the other twin's will, is
that it is a law that
allows a twin to challenge
the other twin's will, and
it is a law that allows a
twin to challenge the other
twin's will.

Return to
Glastonbury

The Glastonbury Festival
is returning to its original
location, and it is a
great thing to see. The
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Banks 'failing
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The air traffic controllers
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news

Fertility ban on widow 'is cruel and unnatural'

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Banning a young widow from bearing a child using her dead husband's sperm would be "cruel and unnatural", a leading fertility expert said yesterday as the woman launched a court battle against the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Lord Lester QC, counsel for the woman who is known for legal reasons as DB, read out a statement from Lord Winston, professor of fertility studies at London University, saying that there was "ample justification" for inseminating Mrs B with the sperm and allowing it would be the humane course.

Lord Winston, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Hammersmith Hospital, said that the husband's sperm was "alive and in storage. Until disposed of the will, in effect, be in limbo. To destroy it without good reason would be undeniably wanton". Sperm that cannot lawfully be used within five years must be destroyed.

Lord Lester told Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division, in a judicial review that the authority had taken an "unduly narrow approach" in insisting that the

artificial insemination of Mrs B could not go ahead because her husband had not signed a formal written consent.

In another written statement read out to the court, Baroness Warnock, who chaired the committee of inquiry which led to the establishment of the authority, said it was recognised that written agreement might not always be possible. In this case it seemed that the husband's wishes were known. "I feel certain we would have seen an ethical or public policy objections to allowing the woman to become pregnant," she said.

It also emerged in yesterday's court case that Mrs B, 30, was not told of the significance of getting written consent at the time she asked for sperm to be taken from her unconscious husband in March last year. "The irony is that if she had been fully informed at the time, she might have sought to be inseminated before her husband's life support was turned off," Mr Lester said.

Mr B was in a coma on a life-support machine in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, after contracting bacterial meningitis. Mrs B knew her husband would have approved of insemination because he had specifically discussed it after

reading a newspaper article about another couple. "This is not a case about disregarding the wishes of the deceased husband," Lord Lester said. "It is a case about advances in medical science being able to help his widow to have the child which they both so much wanted."

Lord Lester said the couple married in 1991 after a nine-year courtship and had expressly requested the traditional 1622 Anglican form of service which places a greater emphasis on procreation. When they began trying to conceive, they had altered the furniture in their home and chosen a name for a daughter. At the point that the husband fell ill, four days before he died, the couple mistakenly believed Mrs B was pregnant.

Lord Lester said the couple should be viewed as having treatment "together", which does not require written consent under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. If there was any ambiguity, Parliament had to be presumed not to have intended to breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

A ban on Mrs B using the sperm would breach the fundamental right to found a family within marriage under article 12, he said. The hearing continues today.

Animal rights protesters get down to bare essentials



"Lady Godiva", with just a long blonde wig protecting her modesty, looks away from a lone security guard as she interrupts preparations for the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley Arena in London yesterday, writes Jojo Moyes.

The woman was there with members of the animal welfare group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), who were protesting against the use of the hormone-replacement drug Premarin, which is drawn from the urine of pregnant mares. Animal rights groups say that about 80,000 pregnant mares are kept in "cruel urine farms" to create the drug, an oestrogen supplement for menopause used by approximately 8 million women world-wide. Photograph: David Rose

Fridge parks to take BSE carcass backlog

JAMES CUSICK

Vast parks, including disused airfields, filled with up to 1,000 refrigerated lorry containers, are being planned by the government to tackle the cattle-cull crisis which is affecting the timetable to eradicate BSE.

Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, revealed yesterday that the backlog of culled cows was "substantially larger than had been anticipated". The problem centres on the bottleneck that has left rendering plants unable to keep up with the cull.

The plants' machinery, which reduces carcasses to tallow and bone meal, has in some cases broken down as capacity has increased. Plans to increase the number of plants have often run into planning regulation buffers.

Since the onset of the beef crisis in March, with the announcement in Parliament of the potential link between BSE

and the human form of the disease, CJD, the Government has undertaken a slaughter programme of all cattle over 30 months old with the aim of removing BSE from the food chain. The number of culled cattle has passed the half-million mark with the industry killing 33,000 cattle each week. This is on top of the 50,000 "clean" cattle killed each week for the UK's internal beef market.

At a series of meetings with farmers in Devon yesterday Mr Freeman said that a change in the rendering mix would allow more of each carcass to be stored, and the slaughter rate would be increased from 33,000 per week to 55,000 per week.

Mr Freeman told the farmers that to cope with the need for storage facilities he was increasing the use of refrigerated containers. A spokeswoman for the Intervention Board, which is organising the cull, said the board had "confirmed that

specialist ships were also being looked at".

The Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers said yesterday that their early warnings to the Government now appeared to be justified. Peter Scott, the general secretary of the federation, said: "It has been dawn-ing on ministers that just because you want numbers to be true, doesn't mean they will be." He added: "Killing cattle is not a problem. Rendering is."

"We understand that cold storage capacity in the UK is now running out," said Mr Scott. "The public see cattle as something akin to the Black Death. [So] many firms who use cold storage do not wish to see their produce stored alongside culled carcasses, hence, even where there is free capacity, the Intervention Board... are being turned away."

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THE SUNDAY REVIEW

Sir Norman Foster, designer of tall towers and darling of the avant-garde, is the architect the tabloids most love to hate. In an exclusive interview with Jonathan Glancey, he gets a chance to answer back

The Cultural Revolution continues: the second part of our series on the coming digital age examines the implications of the new technologies for private life - sex and love on the Internet, shopping in an online home, and the possible end of self...

Plus: the joy of fish... Michael Bateman introduces a delicious three-part guide to the secrets of piscine cuisine

And the art of trashing: Nicholas Barber continues our survey of British hotels with a celebration of the rock'n'roll tradition

IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

*FOR EXAMPLE THE ABOVE COMPLETE KITCHEN COMPRISES: 7 CABINETS: 1000mm Drawer Line Base Unit x 1, 1000mm HF-Line Base Unit x 2, 1000mm Full Height Wall Unit x 2, 600mm Built Under Oven Housing Unit, 600mm Hob Wall Unit. ACCESSORIES: Stainless Steel Lay-on-Gry (S1321/22), Waste and Overflow Filter Tap (AP 1102), Worktop Sink x 3m x 1, Worktop Sink x 1m x 1, Composite Plinth x 2, Plinth Plinth x 4. APPLIANCES: OA Appliance Package (A01 B11/2) Comprises: Electric Oven, Mousse or White (APM 3110/21), Gas Hob, Mousse or White (APM 111/21), Extractor, Mousse or White (APM 211/21), Larder Fridge (TND 6025), Freezer (TND 6022).

سكزا من الأهل

05:10 11:00

Author invites world to rewrite book by e-mail

CLARE GARNER
Frankfurt

For the first time, a book is to be published and then republished a year later after readers all over the world e-mail the author with their opinions.

The novel scheme was explained to international publishers attending the Frankfurt Book Fair at a dinner arranged last night by Andrew Wylie, the literary agent nicknamed "the Jackal" on account of his penchant for luring top-selling authors such as Salman Rushdie and Ben Okri from rivals.

Esther Dyson, the as yet unknown author in question, gave the assembled 125 representatives from 20 different countries a taste of her first book.

Release 2.0, *Second Thoughts About The Digital Age* will be written and published by next October. It will be published simultaneously in 20 languages and each book will contain the web site address. Seven months later, after the book has been "licked around the place like a piece of software" by Internet users around the world, it will

be rewritten, ready to be republished in June 1998.

"Release 2.1 will be a new book, based on Release 2.0 but different," said Mr Wylie yesterday. "It's very like releasing a novel and people saying, 'Mr Amis, I don't like the way you presented these characters. I want you to grow this one and turn this one grey. Just as a software company revises its products to provide software users with a better product, so she [Ms Dyson] will revise the book. My God, we're going to provide reader satisfaction."

Ms Dyson, 45, and described by the *New York Times* as "the most powerful woman in the Net-era", could become the latest publishing sensation.

Sources close to Mr Wylie expect worldwide advances outside the United States to total more than £1 million, a figure on a par with amounts secured for non-fiction books such as *The Road Ahead* by Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft Corporation. The prospect is not unimaginable bearing in mind Mr Wylie's previous publishing feats (he recently made Martin

Amis an estimated £1.5 million for his novel, *The Information*), but it remains to be seen if he can reap in the same sort of sum for an unknown writer.

Ms Dyson's 70,000-word book will be in the form of an extended essay and will explain the implications of the Internet for society and government. Ms Dyson has her own company in the States called EDventure, through which she publishes Release 1.0, the computer industry's leading chronicle of analysis and insight.

US rights to the book were bought a couple of weeks ago by American publisher, Broadway, for an undisclosed sum.

The auction for the book will open at 8.55 am today.



Million pound atlas: Sotheby's is to sell a group of early maps more than 400 years after their creator, Gerard Mercator, designed the first realistic map of the world. Mercator's work became the lynchpin of navigation. Photograph: Tom Hirston

Car-park drama at Glyndebourne

Glyndebourne opera house has been given six months to dig up a car park which it laid without planning permission in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The car park was built so that opera lovers could enter the theatre, near Lewes, East Sussex, without getting mud on their shoes or on skirt hems.

But Lewes council says the new blot on the landscape ruins a site which has been designated an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - and the work was carried out without planning permission.

The council wrote a letter to Sir George Christie, the chairman of Glyndebourne, saying that the planning committee's decision to start enforcement action was unanimous. Councillors made their decision after being shown a video of how the car park ruins the view from the Sussex Downs.

Councillor Vic Tomkinson, chair of Lewes Council's northern area planning committee, said after the meeting: "When they covered the field over, the reason they gave was that the season was approaching and they needed a car park."

"They needed planning permission for what they have done. It is an absolutely abominable stretch of tarmac which goes across the hillside... They do seem to have a cavalier attitude to the planning regulations," he said.

"With the opera they are doing something admired around the world... If they had co-operated with us we could have got something which looked better than this."

A spokesman for Glyndebourne said: "We don't feel we are able to comment until we receive official notification from the council."



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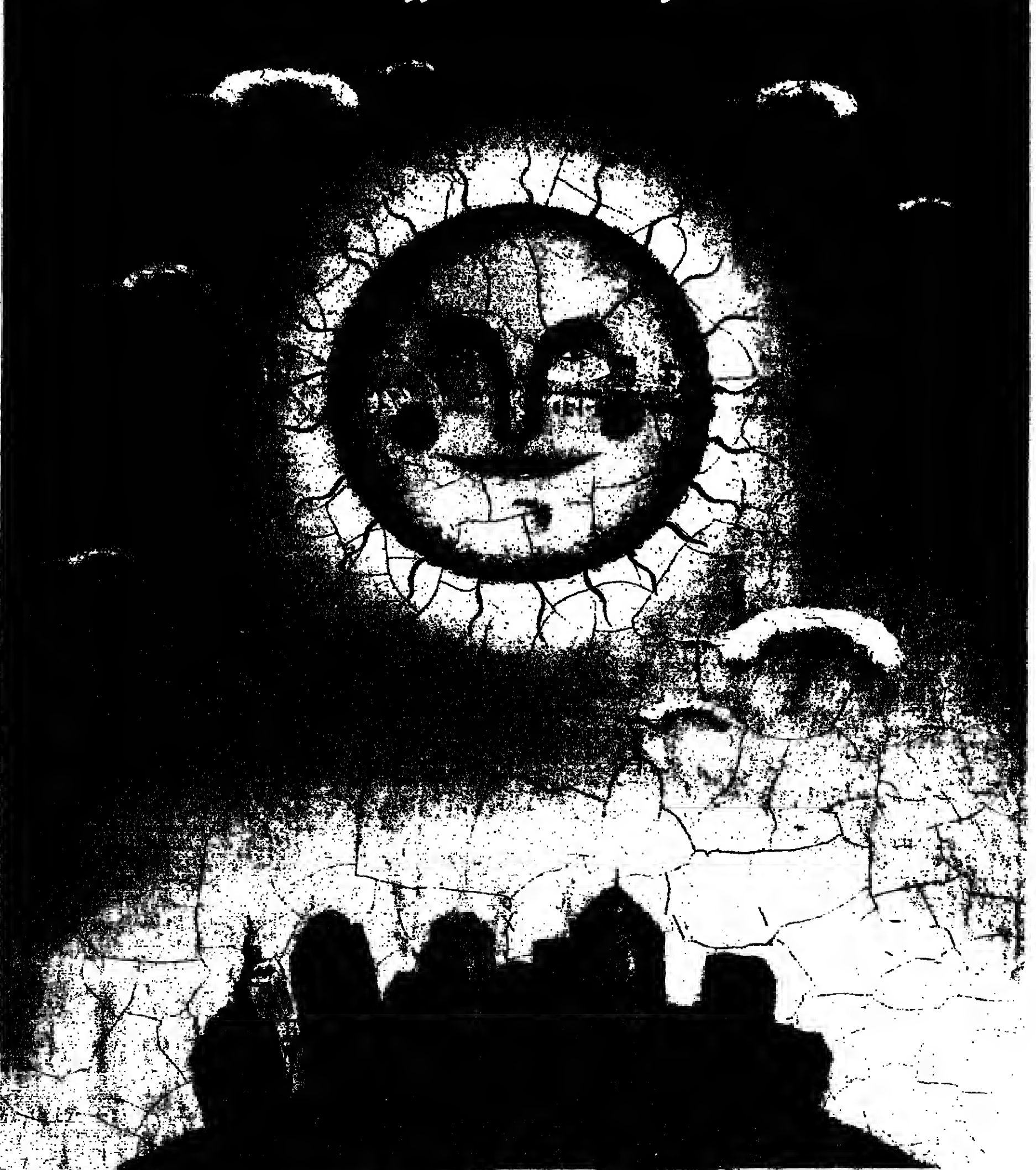
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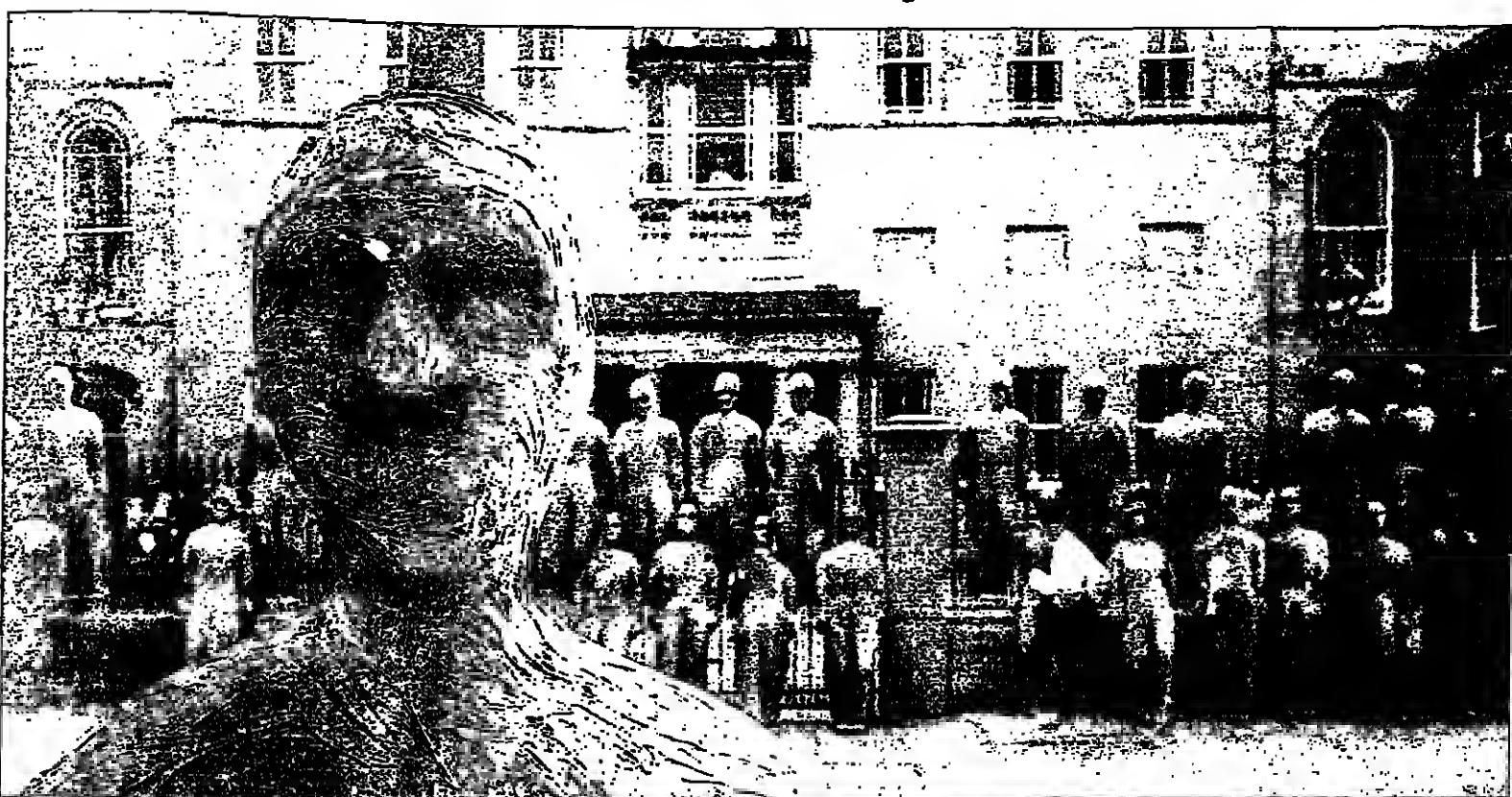
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news

Alas, poor Hamlet, haunted by a cast of chubbies



Stand-in: One of 42 life-size statues commissioned by the Oxford Stage Company for its production of *Hamlet* at the Lawrence Bailey Theatre, in Wakefield, the company's new northern base. Called "chubbies", they will represent Hamlet's ancestors on stage. Photograph: John Angerson/Guzelian

Medical schools hit by drain of doctors to NHS

LIZ HUNT
Medical Editor

One in 10 professorial chairs in British medical schools are vacant and scores of other teaching posts are unfilled because universities can no longer afford to match NHS salaries for doctors.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association's Council, yesterday appealed to the Prime Minister to intervene in the "unprecedented crisis" facing medical education.

Clinical academics – doctors who spend half their time on research and teaching, and half in hospitals – account for 10 per cent of the NHS medical work-

British Medical Association meeting in Istanbul

force. They have traditionally been paid the same as their full-time NHS colleagues. A senior hospital consultant earns a basic salary of between £43,000 and £52,000 per annum.

However, funding per student has declined by almost a third since 1988 and has left universities unable to pay clinical academics the same as their hospital colleagues, the British Medical Association annual clinical meeting was told.

The pay rise to university staff in 1996 was 1.5 per cent, compared with around 3.8 per cent for NHS consultants and up to 5.3 per cent for more junior doctors. Some clinical academics have received their 1.5 per cent rise but many others have had nothing at all.

Negotiations over the past six years have left many clinical academics disillusioned and triggered a haemorrhage in staff from medical school departments. Dr Macara said this could only get worse. "A total of 57 chairs of clinical medicine are vacant, including some of the more prestigious appointments around the country," he added. A department without a professor is like "a headless chicken; he or she is the driving

force behind it," Dr Macara said. Posts in anatomy and physiology, for example, which were previously held by doctors, are also now going to scientists with no clinical experience.

Death and disability from a life-threatening form of brain haemorrhage could be avoided if more GPs and hospital doctors recognise the common warning sign, it was claimed.

A fifth of patients who suffer a sub-arachnoid haemorrhage had sought medical help for a sudden, agonising headache (SAH), the classic symptom, but were not referred to hospital immediately, Dr Christof Toulis, a trainee neurosurgeon from Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry, told the BMA conference.

When these patients were eventually admitted to hospital, their condition was worse and their prognosis poorer than for those with SAH who had been referred immediately.

A sub-arachnoid haemorrhage occurs when a weak blood vessel ruptures in the brain. It affects 10 in 100,000 people. The bleeding and resulting build-up of pressure can cause devastating brain damage, leading to physical and mental disability, or death.

Initial leakage of blood is often accompanied by an SAH which can last a day or weeks, and if operated on at this stage and the weakness in the blood vessel repaired, neurological damage can be prevented.

'Yuppie flu' loses medical status to chronic fatigue

SUSAN EMMETT

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, previously labelled as the debilitating illness ME or "yuppie flu", is psychological and physical but is not linked to any social class or occupational group.

A report yesterday by the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Psychiatrists and General Practitioners, showed that there is no doubt that CFS is a common condition affecting 1 to 2.5 per cent of the population.

The term ME has been officially derecognised by medical experts, who said it led to confusion and a wrong approach to the problem of chronic fatigue.

The name ME – myalgic encephalomyelitis – implied an inflammation of the brain or spinal cord, when there was no evidence of such a clear link. There are no social, geographical or environmental factors linking sufferers. "It isn't yuppie flu. It affects all classes," said psychiatrist Dr Simon Westley. "The previous stereotype of the upper-class professional is just that, a stereotype."

As an illness, CFS is defined by six months of severe fatigue made worse by exertion.

There are still no medical explanations for the illness, and no evidence that it is linked to common viral infections, except for the fatigue following glandular fever. While viruses might trigger CFS, experts can not prove that persistent viral infection accompanies persistent fatigue.

Findings show there are both psychological and physical elements to the illness and that doctors should adopt a more holistic approach. "To try to distinguish between a physical illness and a psychological illness is not just wrong, it's meaningless," said Dr Robert Kendell, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Treatments using anti-depressant drugs generally prove unsuccessful, and the report calls instead for joint medical and psychological treatment such as cognitive behaviour therapy – a form of counselling where a patient's needs and activities are assessed and controlled by specialists.

Driver 'hid body of Celine in his lorry'

The French hitchhiker Celine Figard was raped and strangled by a lorry driver who hid her body in his cab for 10 days, a court was told yesterday.

Self-employed lorry driver Stuart Morgan, 37, denies murdering Ms Figard between 18 December last year, the day before she disappeared, and 31 December, the day after her naked and battered body was found in woodland in Worcestershire.

Mr Morgan, of Parkstone, Dorset, sat taking notes as Mr David Farrer QC told the jury at Worcester Crown Court of the allegations against him.

Ms Figard, a 19-year-old accountancy student from Ferrières-les-Scées, eastern France, wanted to come to Britain to improve her English. In the summer of 1995 she had worked as a waitress in a Hampshire ho-

tel where her cousin, Jean Marc, was a trainee manager. Ms Figard left France for England again on 18 December.

On 19 December she was dropped at the Chieveley service area on the M4 near Newbury, Berkshire. Shortly afterwards, Mr Farrer said, Ms Figard got into a white Mercedes lorry.

Ms Figard's body was found 10 days later in woodland on the A449 at Hawford, Worcestershire. She had been raped, beaten and strangled. The prosecution alleges that Mr Morgan killed Ms Figard and kept her body hidden behind the driving seat of his lorry over the Christmas period. Mr Morgan then drove in the lay-by and left Ms Figard's body, altering his tachograph record to conceal the trip. The trial continues today.

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news

Great speech, even second time round

Watching Tony Blair's Blackpool speech on the television, I was gripped by a frisson of déjà vu. Surely I had heard this speech before, at another time and another place, with another 40-something politician delivering the words? Were not many of the phrases, the structure, the rhetorical devices used, the whole tone, remarkably close to the acceptance

speech given by Bill Clinton to the Democratic Convention at Madison Square Garden, New York, in July 1992?

Indeed they were. If you compare (see below) the text of Mr Clinton's speech, with Mr Blair's the similarities are striking. Let us be clear: we are not talking plagiarism here. This is not (quite) a reversal of the wholesale pillaging of Neil

Kinnock's speeches by the United States politician Joe Biden during the 1988 presidential campaign. The only phrase directly lifted is Mr Blair's "covenant with the British people", clearly modelled on the soon-to-be-President's "New Covenant" for the American people (something Mr Clinton has hardly men-

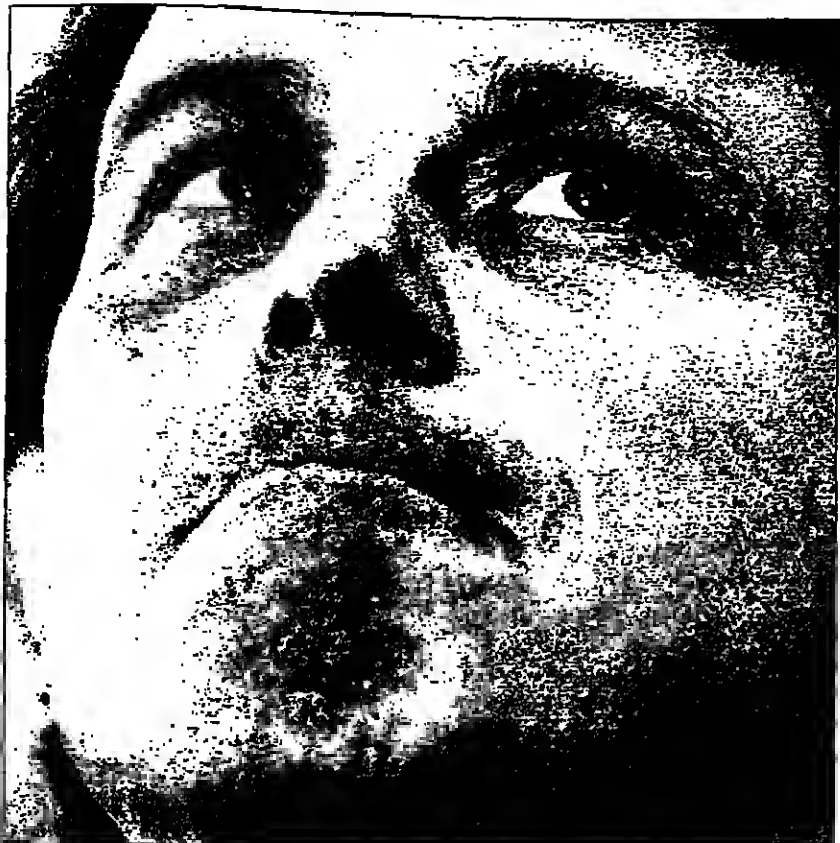
tioned since). But the

arguments used are so similar that one could transpose whole paragraphs without doing violence to the sense or tone of either speech. "We offer our people a new choice based on old values." No, that's not Blair, it's Clinton. "Each generation doing better than the last. The heritage of hope from par-

ents to their children..." No, that's not Clinton, it's Blair. Clinton offers: "Old-fashioned Americans for a new time. Opportunity. Responsibility. Community." Blair calls for: "A society of opportunity. A society of responsibility..."

At the point of the speeches, the two men were at precisely the same point in their respective election cycles. Bill Clinton

on 16 July 1992 was presenting himself as: a) the moderate, reforming enterprise-oriented saviour of a party which had lost touch with its electorate and b) the real agent of change to sweep away an ineffectual conservative leader who had won the previous election by posing as a gentler version of the tooth-and-claw conservatism of the Eighties.



Blair's mission: heritage of hope from parent to child

Tony Blair's speech to the Labour Party Conference, Blackpool, 1 October 1996:

"When you look back on your past, you try to think of the things that shaped you. One morning I woke to be told that... [my father] might not live through the day and my whole world fell apart. It taught me something: it taught me the value of the family, because my mother worked for three years to help him talk and walk again..."

"The true radical mission of the Labour Party, new and old, is not to hold people back but to help them get on. Each generation doing better than the last. The heritage of hope from parents to their children... Our task is to restore that hope, to build a new Age of Achievement in a new and different world..."

"Ask me my three main priorities for government. I tell you, education, education and education... If all we have is what we own, not what we share, we are all the losers. This is my covenant with the British people. Judge me on it..."

"Today I offer you, and we offer the country, a new vision. If we are to build this new Age of Achievement, you and I, and all of us together, must build first the decent so-

ciety to deliver it. A society in which every individual is valued, every person given a chance to develop their potential, a society in which we contribute and which contributes to us. A society of opportunity. A society not based on outdated prejudices but on the common duty of humanity and our belief that we owe an obligation to each other to improve the lives of all. A society of opportunity. A society of responsibility. History will call it the Decent Society..."

"Let us modernise government itself, so it serves the interests of the people, not bigger government. Better government... We will introduce a programme to reform government... Government for the people not government for government..."

"If we unleash the potential of our people, Britain comes alive with the new energy, the new ideas and the new leadership and Britain can take on the world and win."

"We will be envied throughout the world, not just because of our castles and palaces... but because we gave the heritage of hope back to the generations, we turned this country around by the will of the people in unity with the party of the people and we built the Age of Achievement in our lifetime..."



Clinton's covenant: new choice based on old values

Bill Clinton's acceptance speech, Democratic Convention, Madison Square Garden, New York, 16 July 1992:

"I never met my father. He was killed in a car wreck on a rainy road three months before I was born... After that my mother had to support us... My mother taught me. She taught me about family and hard work and sacrifice. She held steady through tragedy after tragedy..."

"Jobs. Education. Education. These are not just commitments from my lips, they are the work of my life. Our priorities are clear: We will put people first again... To turn rhetoric into reality we've got to change the way government does business, fundamentally... There is not a programme in government for every problem."

"And if we really want to use government to help people, we've got to make it work again... A government that is leaner not meaner; a government that expands opportunity, not bureaucracy; a government that understands that jobs must come from growth..."

"I call this approach a New Covenant, a solemn agreement between the people and their government, based not simply on what each of us can take, but what all of us must give our nation."

"We offer our people a new choice based on old values. We offer opportunity. We demand responsibility. We will build an American community again..."

"The choice we offer is not conservative or liberal... It is different. It is new. It will work. It will work because it is rooted in the vision and the values of the American people..."

"What is the vision of our New Covenant? An America with millions of new jobs in dozens of new industries moving confidently into the 21st century."

"An America that says to entrepreneurs and business people: we will give you more incentives and opportunity than ever before... but you must do your part. You must be responsible..."

"The New Covenant is also about more than opportunities and responsibilities for you and your families. It is also about your common community... And so we must say to every American: look beyond the stereotypes that blind us. We need each other. All of us, we need each other. We don't have a person to waste..."

"In the end, my fellow Americans, this New Covenant simply asks us all to be Americans again. 'Old-fashioned Americans for a new time. Opportunity. Responsibility. Community. When we pull together, America will pull ahead.' 'Let that be our cause... a country of boundless hope and endless dreams; a country that once again lifts its people and inspires the world.' 'Let that be our cause, our commitment and our New Covenant... I still believe in a place called Hope.'"

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DAILY POEM

Miss Havisham's Letter
By Julia Copus

Darling, there is nothing between us that cannot be restored. So much remains of the good times: did I tell you how, on the eve of our day, while in my undergarments, I leaned over and felt the full weight of my breasts in my own hands! And such pleasures have been replaced by other pleasures - a kind of wisdom: my eye knows the very corner of my eye, and my mouth has learned to use its various muscles to full effect -

When my girl comes with food I pull a perfect scowl but I do not refuse the tasteless sops she brings: how else shall I sustain myself! Darling, the dress outgrew me long ago. I hear it sometimes cracking in its paper where the silkworms shift and slide. It is trying to make a life for itself. And my small night table is shaping an effigy of you; it sags with all the candles I have burned. Pray God that you will be here soon; the furniture is weary, my darling, of the names I am forever fingering into its dust.

Next Thursday is National Poetry Day and for the fifth year the Forward Poetry Trust publish a collection of best poems of the year to coincide with its annual prizes. Julia Copus, along with Kate Clanchy, Alice Oswald and Ian Pople, is shortlisted in the Best First Collection category for *The Shattered Eye* (Bloodaxe). *The Forward Book of Poetry* is published in association with Faber & Faber on 10 October at £6.95.



Political manoeuvres: Alexander Lebed listening to Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko movement, after speaking on Chechnya yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

Lebed sizes up Yeltsin's shoes

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

As Russia's parliamentarians gathered yesterday for the first day of the new term, one certainty shone brightly in the corridors of their otherwise shadowy, intrigue-ridden world: while Boris Yeltsin nurses his damaged heart in the run-up to his operation, a presidential race is already under way among those who hope to fill his shoes.

Leading the field, evidently untroubled by the fact that his boss is not only alive but should – according to his doctors – make a full recovery, is Alexander Lebed, the popular ex-paratrooper general whom Mr Yeltsin catapulted into power less than four months ago.

"It's clear what he is up to," said Alexei Pudberizkin, a leading economic adviser to the Communists, shortly before Mr Lebed delivered a speech about Chechnya to the Duma, or lower house, to scattered heckling. "He doesn't even try to hide it himself."

"Lebed understands that to

become president you need the support of big money, or a political structure, a party. He is busy building a party. There are some rich people – new Russians and big banks – who are eager to support him."

A glance back at Mr Lebed's performance over the last two weeks is evidence enough that the general has hit the campaign trail with all the subtlety of one of the tanks he used to command. Few days pass without another addition to the growing pile of outrageous Lebedisms, causing knitted brows in the West, where governments are unsure whether his tub-thumping is merely vote-getting rhetoric, or whether he actually means what he says.

This week he warned Nato that if it attempts to expand without Russian agreement it will be met by missiles; he also declared his approval of Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus who wants a new constitution giving him totalitarian powers, which he would use to further his plans to reunite with Russia.

Earlier, he suggested that

Mr Yeltsin should hand over power until he is completely recovered from his heart ailment; he has characterised the Crimean port of Sevastopol as Russian, upsetting the Ukrainians; he has warned that the Russian army is on the brink of an armed uprising; he has held a high-profile press conference marking his first 100 days in office, while the President languishes in bed; and he has

struck up links with General Alexander Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former chief henchman who urged the President to cancel this summer's elections.

In a political sideshow that is certain to be as gripping as any that Russia's wild mainstream politics has to offer, General Korzhakov is running in Mr Lebed's former seat in the military city of Tula. Interfax reported yesterday that his likely opponent would be

General Pavel Grachev, the former defence minister, and arch-rival of Mr Lebed.

Scant though it is, the evidence from polls suggests that Mr Lebed has become by far the most popular man in the country since his appointment as Secretary of the Security Council. However, this may have more to do with his deeds than his words. Even his political enemies admit that the peace deal

in Chechnya was greeted with huge relief by most Russians, who are sick of sending young men to the war zone to die.

But memories are short. Other candidates are beginning to manoeuvre – notably the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov. And Mr Lebed is accident-prone, and tends to launch into his deep-baritone speeches without contemplating the consequences of his wilder remarks.

Last week, his office denied that he ever gave an interview published in the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper in which he advocated imposing economic sanctions against Germany and the United States if Nato expanded, although the report appears authentic. Not long before that, he allowed himself to be photographed brandishing a dagger, clad in a Chechen cape and hat. And before that, he was backtracking hastily after calling Mormons "mould and scum". His opponents will be watching his rise with alarm, but not despair. They know a man who makes so many mistakes it is by no means unbeatable.

On Russia's response to the US launched a missile attack as it did against Iraq. "We have nothing to lose. We have no red lines. So, think it over, gentlemen." (to journalists, 25 September)

The wit and wisdom of the general

■ "Russia has something with which oppose Nato's enlargement. They're rusty, but they're missiles all the same." (to Russian journalists, 1 October)

■ "During the 100 days which I have been in my present post, I have not worked out how decisions are made in this country." (to press conference, 26 September)

■ "Let there be no mistake: German and American industrial interests in Russia will suffer directly as a result of [Nato] enlargement plans. We will find ways to hit the pro-

ponents of this policy where it hurts. The market is exploding. There will be other investors." (to *Daily Telegraph*, published 24 Sept – but denounced as a fraud)

■ On Germany's role in Nato and EU enlargement: "Is this the work of the post-unionification policy makers, including a fourth Reich?" (as above)

■ On Russia's response to the US launched a missile attack as it did against Iraq. "We have nothing to lose. We have no red lines. So, think it over, gentlemen." (to journalists, 25 September)

Unpopular Juppé wins vote of confidence

IAN PHILLIPS
Paris

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, easily won the vote of confidence in his government, which he called yesterday when members of the majority in parliament rallied behind him.

However, in private members of the ruling Republican and UDF parties are calling for his resignation and doubts remain as to how long his government can stay in power.

Criticism has mounted recently over the government's economic policies and the number of proposed new laws. On Monday, President Jacques Chirac admitted: "The French have doubts about everything, including our ability to face up to the task in hand."

The president of the right-wing UDF party, François Léotard, asked: "Will we reach the end of this parliament? I don't think so." And yesterday the Minister for National and Regional Development, Jean-Claude Gantier, did not exclude an imminent dissolution of parliament.

The mood of politicians closely echoes that of the public. A survey last week revealed that Mr Juppé was the most unpopular prime minister in recent memory. Only 31 per cent of those questioned had a good opinion of him while 61 per cent were dissatisfied.

The country's discontent with government policies is once more being marked by strikes. On Monday, 59 per cent of primary schools and 41 per cent of secondary school teachers stayed off work to protest against proposed budget cuts.

Some rail workers have been on strike since Sunday against the threat of redundancies and the rail unions last week announced they would join the public sector strike which is being called for 17 October.

Discussion has been rife within Mr Juppé's own majority against the introduction of an anti-racism law and a proposal for a degree of proportional

representation to be introduced into the voting system.

The failure of recent tax reforms to win over the public, the gaping deficit in the social security budget, and the 5.3 per cent rise in unemployment over the past year have all heightened calls for Mr Juppé to go.

Yet it must be acknowledged that he has little room for economic manoeuvre owing to the constraints imposed by the conditions for European monetary union, which France has targeted to meet in 1998. While the French seem confident that they will meet



Juppé: Dissension in his party and the country

the deadline, President Chirac caused a mini-crisis between Paris and Rome on the eve of the two day Franco-Italian summit, due to start in Naples today, by questioning whether Italy will be able to join EMU in 1999.

Earlier this week Mr Chirac denounced the competitive devaluation of the lira as being "more harmful [to the French economy] than south-east Asian exports".

The Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, felt the attack was due to the terror "caused by the dynamism of Italian industry". By yesterday morning Mr Chirac had changed tack, with an announcement that "the policy was a step in the right direction".



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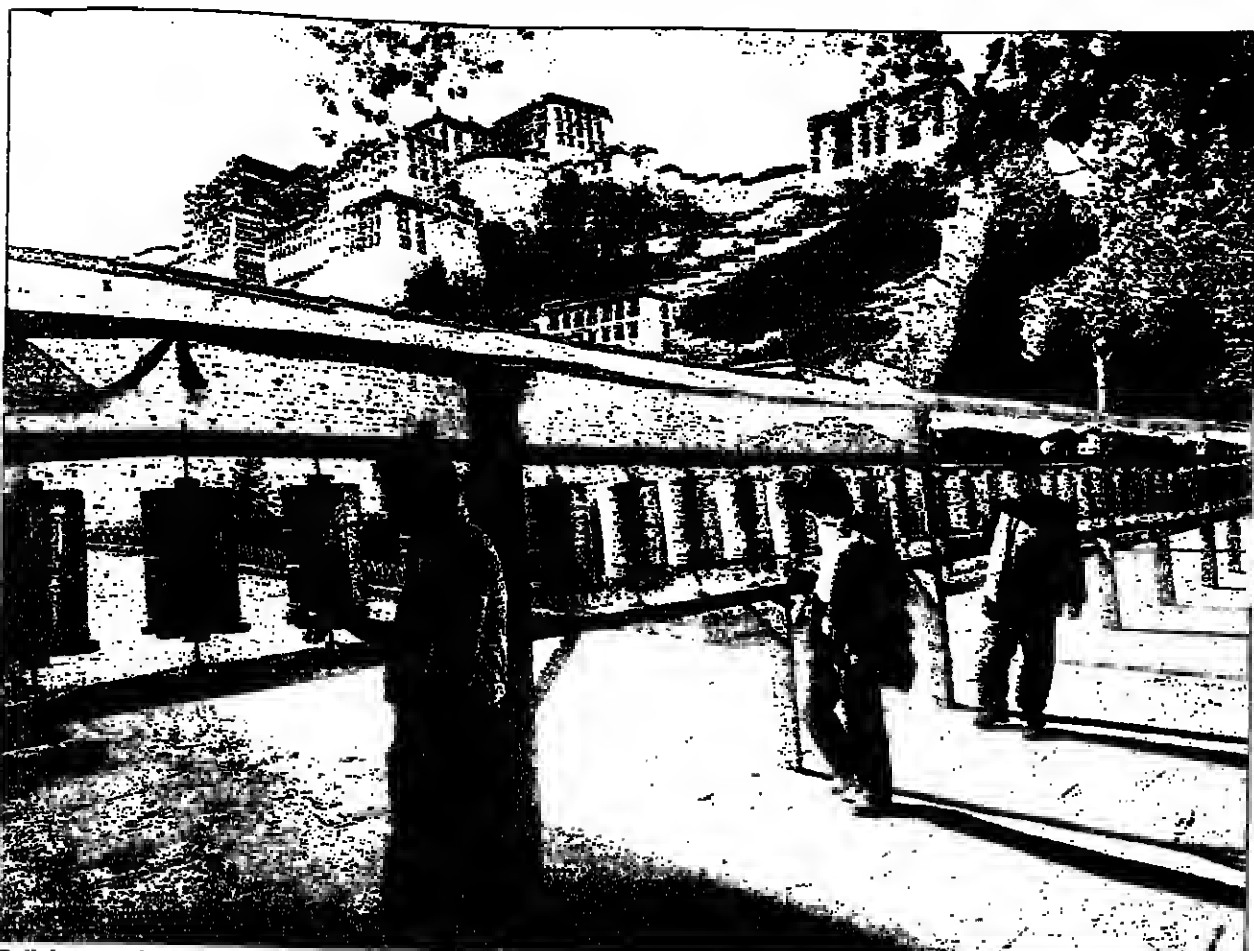
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Religious resistance: Monks pray at Sera monastery in Tibet

Photograph: Robert Nickelsberg

Peking's poison fails to touch Tibetan hearts

Shigatse, Tibet — In the markets of Tibet, it is possible to buy a gold tooth. Displayed in glass cases, the teeth are arranged together like a Buddha's enigmatic smile. Buying a gold tooth is not for vanity but for protection. If the gold turns black in your mouth it means your companions are trying to poison you.

Poisoning has traditionally been a way of settling scores in the high Himalayas, and those Tibetans who can afford it like to flash a little gold. Lately, it is not just the Tibetans who are worried about poisoning but the Chinese, too.

When the Chinese last November enthroned a six-year-old Tibetan boy as an alternative spiritual leader to the exiled Dalai Lama, they misread Tibetan outrage over this move. The boy, known as the Panchen Lama, is supposed to reside at the monastery of Tashilhunpo,

China's attempts to foist its Panchen Lama (far right) on the Buddhists have led monks to rally to the Dalai Lama's choice (right), writes Michael Dempsey

in Shigatse, 120 miles west of Lhasa. But the Chinese are so worried about threats to the boy's life that in February he was moved secretly to a safe house in Peking, Tibetan activists said.

Somewhere else in Peking there is a second Panchen Lama. The Dalai Lama, from his exile home in Dharamsala, India, undertook a mystical search to find the reincarnation of the last Panchen Lama. The Chinese Communists were also madly hunting for the same boy.



But when the Dalai Lama in March 1995 announced that he had found the Panchen Lama who, like the Dalai Lama is considered by Tibetans to be a living god, the Chinese changed strategy. First they arrested the Dalai Lama's boy, Chedun Choekyi Nyima, and his parents. Then the Communists held a lottery between several candidates in which their boy was chosen. Most Tibetans think this was a fraud and revere the Dalai Lama's choice.

Exiled Tibetan officials are worried that the Chinese may have locked up the boy considered by most Tibetans as the true Panchen Lama in a psychiatric hospital. Only a month ago the Chinese admitted in Geneva for the first time that the Dalai Lama's choice of Panchen Lama was being held with his parents in "protective custody".

The Chinese said they feared the boy might be kidnapped by Tibetan "separatists". In Tashilhunpo dissent still smoulders. Only two of the monastery's many shrines displayed portraits of the Chinese boy. One of these shrines had an 85ft gilded Buddha. Near its feet I saw a photograph of the new Panchen Lama. The monk dismissed my question with a smile. "Oh, that?" he replied. "That's the Peking Panchen Lama."

In trying to foist their Panchen Lama on the Tibetans, the Chinese have only succeeded in heightening resistance to their rule. One resident of Lhasa said: "Nobody believes in the Chinese Panchen Lama. The Chinese are afraid to bring the boy out in public, or even keep him here in Tibet. If they thought they could replace the Dalai Lama with him in Ti-

betans' hearts, it isn't working."

Throughout Tibetan monasteries, thousands of Communist cadres have been at work over the past two months trying to coerce the monks and nuns to sign pledges rejecting the Dalai Lama and accepting the Chinese's Panchen Lama. In Drepung monastery, outside Lhasa, where more than 180 Communist "re-educators" are encamped, they brought their own cooks. It is thought they were wary of the monks' cuisine. In protest against these daily harassment, most of the Tibetan clergy are refusing to sign the oaths. At least 10 monks have been arrested over the past two weeks.

Meanwhile, rumours continue to spread through Tibet's hamlets and high, cloud-swept plateaus. Even without poison, the health of the Chinese pretender is supposed to be failing. Some Tibetans also swear that the boy's parents, both Communist cadres, were struck by a crisis of conscience and have approached the Chinese leadership requesting that their son be allowed to step down. These may just be wild tales. But they illustrate how deep Tibetan resentment runs against the Chinese, who invaded this Himalayan kingdom in 1951. Tibetan exiles suspect that the last Panchen Lama, who died suddenly in 1989 after spending a dozen years under house arrest, may have been poisoned by the Chinese. Shortly before his death, the Panchen Lama had sharply criticised the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Tibetans believe that a high lama, after death, takes on another re-birth to continue his Buddhist teachings in an unbroken line. The Panchen Lama had never bothered with a gold tooth.

For Tibetans, the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama are their twin spiritual poles. The door of almost every Tibetan farmhouse is painted with a sun and moon, symbolising the country's two spiritual leaders. The Chinese attempts to pull the Tibetans into their orbit by tampering with the Panchen Lama's reincarnation have only made them more enemies.

significant shorts

Kashmiri rebels offered olive branch

The National Conference Party, the largest pro-India party in Kashmir, won a sweeping majority in the first local elections in the state since a separatist revolt began in 1990, and quickly offered an olive branch to rebels. The party, led by former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, won 54 seats in the 87-member assembly. Mr Abdullah, who has lambasted separatists as Pakistani agents, offered to meet leaders of the All-Parties Hurriyat (freedom) Conference, which bands separatist groups. Mr Abdullah was chief minister when the separatist rebellion erupted. More than 20,000 people have died during the revolt, most in Kashmir. *Reuter - Srinagar*

Nato ends blockade

Nato yesterday terminated its naval blockade in the Adriatic following the UN Security Council's decision to lift sanctions against rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — after the Bosnian elections were declared "free and fair". The naval blockade was suspended in June, following the lifting of the UN arms embargo, while restrictions on trade and travel were suspended last November. Yesterday, the decision to lift the sanctions completely was welcomed in Belgrade, but Russia and the US still disagree about further measures to re-admit rump Yugoslavia to the world community. US Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright said Serbia-Montenegro would have to make substantial progress in Kosovo, co-operate fully with the International Tribunal in the Hague and settle other issues with neighbouring states before it could win full respectability. *Christopher Bellamy*

Suu Kyi claims 800 supporters arrested

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, slipped past police barricades harrising access to her home yesterday and told reporters that 800 democracy activists had been arrested. Her estimate was higher than that of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), which said 559 of her National League for Democracy (NLD) Party members and supporters had been arrested. Slorc said it had released 163 supporters ahead of an NLD congress planned for 27-29 September. *Reuter - Rangoon*

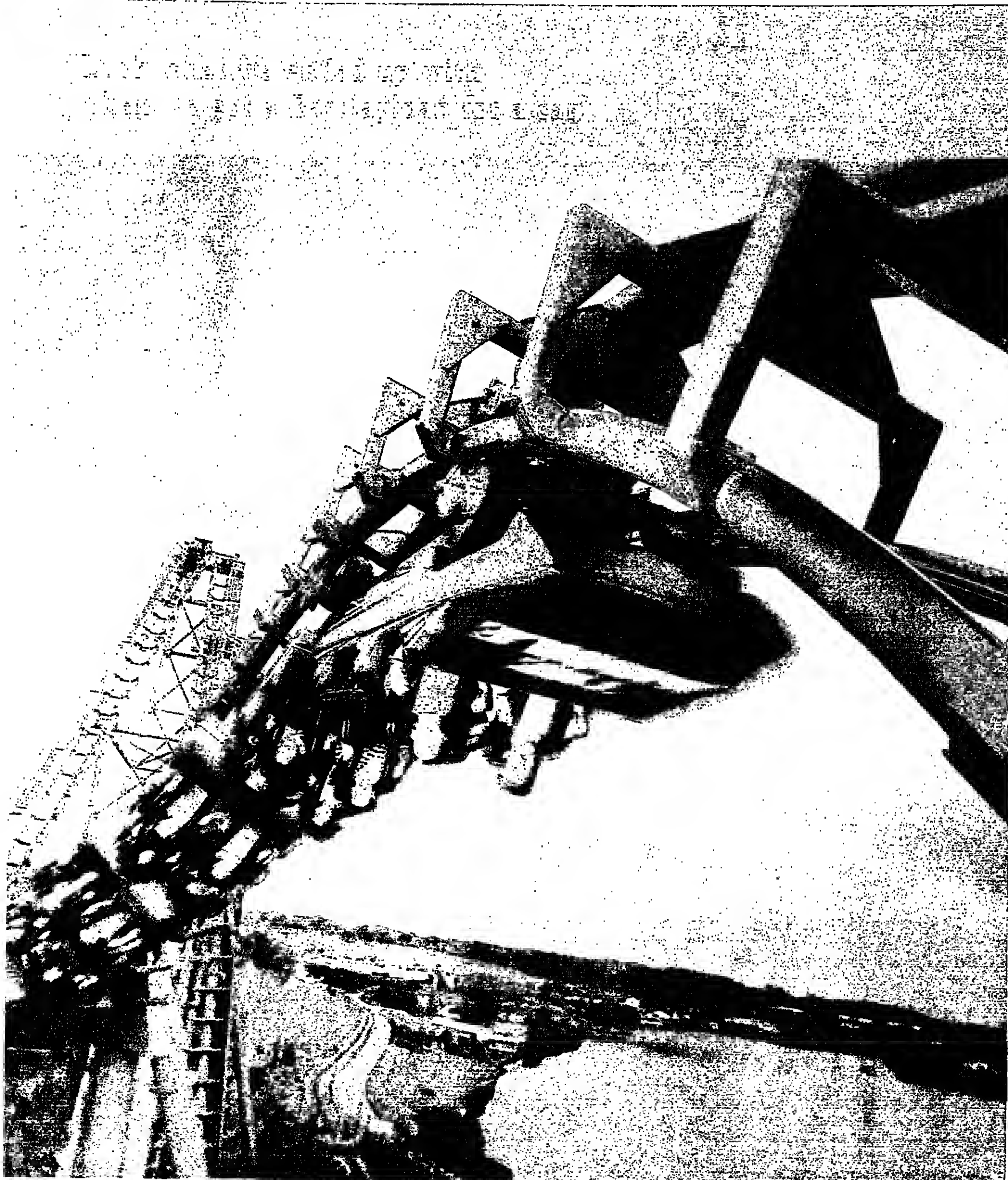
New US force for Bosnia

A new force of 5,000 US troops will shortly leave Germany to cover the withdrawal of the 15,000 US troops in northern Bosnia when the peace implementation force mandate expires on 20 December. The new force will remain in Bosnia for six months as the US component of I-For withdraws. *Christopher Bellamy*

Himalayas call to mad cows

The World Hindu Federation, has urged Switzerland to drop its plan to slaughter 250,000 cattle and offered the sacred beasts a happy home in the Himalayas if Berne gave it the cash earmarked for a "mad cow" cull. *Reuter - Zurich*

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Middle East crisis: Peace talks lose momentum in Washington as negotiators fail to agree timetable for withdrawal from Hebron



Flashpoint: Israeli borderguards searching a Palestinian outside Hebron yesterday

Photograph: AFP

Clinton charm fails to heal

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

The emergency Middle East summit was drawing to an end here in apparent failure yesterday, as both Israelis and Palestinians indicated scant or no progress on key issues, most notably a firm timetable for a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron.

The last chance of avoiding a complete breakdown, of perilous consequence to the entire "peace process" in the region, lay in a White House lunch attended by President Clinton, The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, and King Hussein of Jordan — in the hope that the leaders might succeed where all-night negotiations of officials had failed.

The lunch was delayed to allow yet more talks, but developments were uncertain. Mr Clinton was expected to issue a statement at the summit's conclusion, but it was not clear whether a press conference would be held, and, if so, who would take part.

But the prospects of any substantive agreement seemed slim to non-existent. Palestinians reported that "nothing has been resolved" on any of the disputes

dividing the two sides. Mr Netanyahu continued to insist that Israel wanted to continue talking — even as his officials revealed that Israel was rejecting demands by the US and the Palestinians to set a firm early date to leave Hebron.

"We need security arrangements and that is the problem," an Israeli spokesman said, echoing his Prime Minister's stance before the parties arrived here on Monday. "Serious differences remain," was the comment of one senior US official, who also left no doubt that the going was sticky in the extreme.

Yesterday's discouraging news was a sharp corrective to the hopes fanned by an unexpectedly long and direct session between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat on Tuesday, that the antagonists might be poised to make real progress. But all the sticking points remained, according to Palestinian officials; not just Hebron, but easier entry for Palestinian workers with jobs in Israel and a new airport in the Gaza Strip.

Nor was there any confirmation of a deal to set up an international commission on the future of the tunnel near the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Temple Mount, whose opening was the spark that ignited days of violence in the West Bank,

Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The best Washington can probably hope for is some form of words committing the two sides to continue negotiations beyond this week's summit. All along, the White House was insisting that such a pledge, and a lessening of the almost visceral distrust between Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu, would be considered a success.

This in turn would allow the White House to deflect criticism of Mr Clinton's handling of the crisis by Bob Dole, his opponent in the election less than five weeks off. Languishing in the polls, Mr Dole and his advisers now depict the Middle East as another example of the President's foreign-policy ineptness. "We've lost a lot of credibility," the Republican candidate told newspaper editors in the key state of Ohio yesterday.

Adding to Washington's concern over the region have been reports of unusual Syrian troop movements and a toughly worded speech at the United Nations by the Damascus Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara, in which he accused Mr Netanyahu's government of seeking to demolish five years of work towards a Middle Eastern settlement. "Israel can start a war whenever it chooses, but cannot end it as it chooses," he said.

Palestinians wait for war in ghost city

Hebron — People here are not expecting peace. Aiman Said normally sells spices from a stall in the old city. "I expect we will get nothing out of the summit. America is supporting Israel all the time. In Hebron, things are getting worse every day," he said. Ever since the Israeli army clamped a 20-hour-a-day curfew on this West Bank city, lifted only between 5am and 9am, Mr Said has not been able to set up his stall. He says: "Most of the time we sit at home watching the news." At this moment an Israeli jeep drove down the road and a loudspeaker blared: "Go home. Those who break the law will be arrested."

Mr Said ran into an alleyway and hid until the jeep had gone. Later he asked if he thought the Palestinian *intifada* (uprising) would restart? The spice merchant, a youngish looking man in his thirties, shrugged his shoulders and said: "Since peace started in Oslo [in 1993] we have had no peace."

Others in Hebron are more forthright about what will happen if Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, brings nothing concrete back from Washington. "The Palestinians have rediscovered the *intifada*," says Khalid Amayreh, a journalist with Islamic sympathies in his office above Hebron's deserted vegetable market. "Seventy people were killed and 1,200 wounded last week. After such sacrifices you can't tell people to go back to work. If Arafat fails, people will go back on to the streets."

Punt up in their houses for six days, the streets empty apart from Israeli soldiers and armed Jewish settlers, Palestinians in Hebron feel the diplomatic negotiations of the last three years have brought them nothing. "What you have got here is acute frozen rage, a powder-

keg, a tinder-box," says Mr Amayreh. "There will be spectacular violence, not just in the West Bank but in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Petah Tikva."

Hebron is the one large city of the West Bank, apart from East Jerusalem, from which the Israeli army did not withdraw at the beginning of the year. The so-called redeployment was first delayed because of 450 militant Jewish settlers in the old city. Then it was postponed because of the suicide bombs planted by Islamic militants in February and March, and then again because of the Israeli election in May.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton and Mr Arafat both asked Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to set a date for the pull-out (although the army will still occupy 20 per cent of the city to protect the settlers). So far, the Israeli leader has refused to do so. Inside the municipality building, Mustafa Natsheh, the mayor of Hebron, says: "All we ask is for the Israelis to keep the agreement they signed a year ago."

The curfew is a disaster, he adds, with shortages of food, milk and medicine. "Children can't get to school. It is a city of ghosts."

In the street outside Mr Natsheh's office are two teenagers who have broken curfew to make a complaint to the mayor, Abed Rauf Awawi, 14, and Bajaj Abed Wahab Awawi, 16, say that two days before they had been sitting outside their house when they were accused of throwing stones and arrested by Israeli border guards, a paramilitary unit. They were taken an Israeli post and forced to sit in the sun. Bajaj said: "When we asked for a drink the

guards, who were Druze [members of an Islamic sect who often serve in the Israeli armed forces] gave us a plastic bottle full of urine and beat us until we drank it."

None of this was likely to elicit much sympathy among the Israeli settlers a few hundred yards away. Noam Arnon, the settler spokesman, said: "I don't believe Mr Netanyahu will take the army out of Hebron. The PLO has shown that it has guns and is full of murderers and killers." If the army did withdraw then Mr Arnon, recalling the massacre of 64 Jews by Palestinians in 1929, expected war.

Rafi Chaiken, another settler, asked if he felt any sympathy for the 100,000 Palestinians not allowed to leave their homes, said: "No. If they are shut in their houses it is because they are a danger to us."

He claimed that Israelis had built many schools for Palestinians in Hebron. On a hill a hundred yards away, stood an empty girls' primary school which settlers tried to close earlier in the year by spitting and screaming curses at the children. So far, there have been few protests in Hebron, apart from some stone-throwing yesterday morning. The only demonstration was in the nearby Palestinian town of Doura, where, unlike in Hebron, Palestinian police have control of local security.

A sergeant was watching a march assemble in support of Mr Arafat. Asked what he would do if Israeli soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators, he said: "We have no orders, but we will not stand by and watch — even if we are killed."

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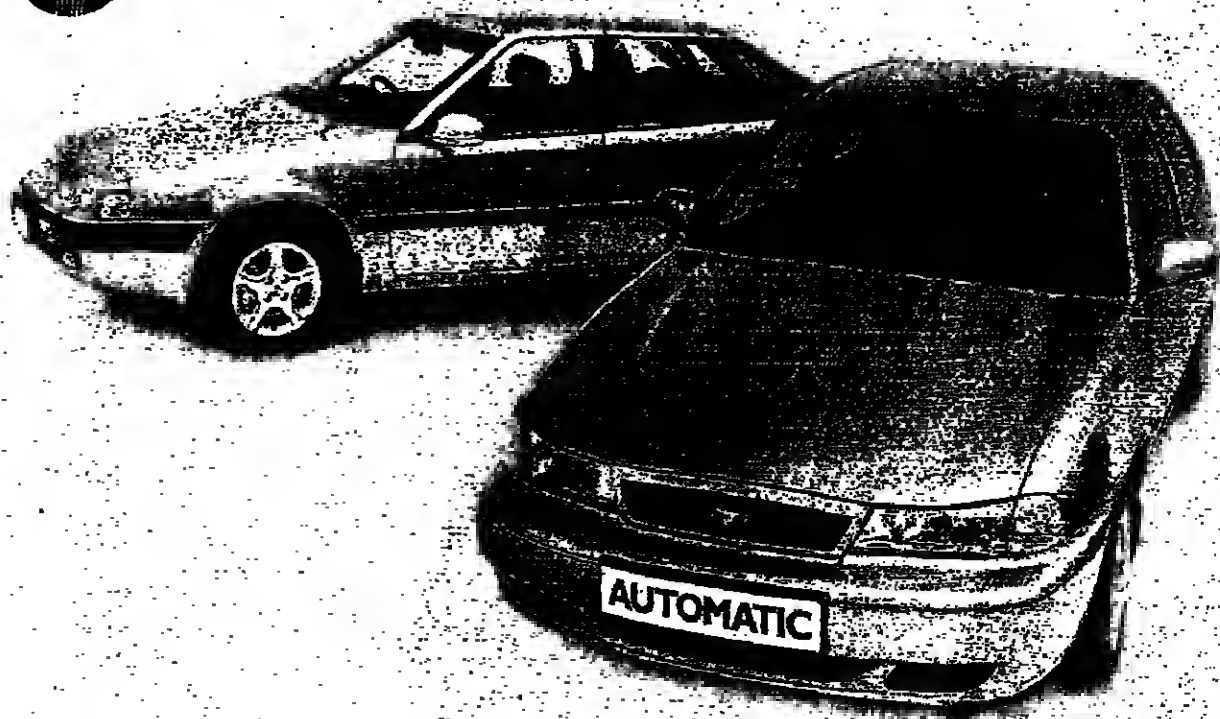
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DAEWOO



Fire rages in Kruger nature park

JULIA BOURHILL
Reuters

Johannesburg — A bush fire has devastated at least a quarter of South Africa's leading tourist attraction, the Kruger National Park. Thousands of animals and birds had probably died to the fire, the worst in more than 40 years. Authorities at the Kruger, which draws 700,000 tourists annually, said the blaze was sparked by lightning a week ago, compounded this week by high temperatures and gale force winds.

The park, founded in 1926, covers 7,700sq miles of bush, half the size of Switzerland, and has the greatest diversity of wildlife of any park in the world. The fire has burned 25 per cent of the Kruger, around the Satara camp in the southern part of the park.

70 die as Boeing plunges into sea

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

The third accident involving a Boeing 757 within a year appears to have killed all 70 people on board a Peruvian plane which crashed into the sea yesterday soon after take-off from the country's capital, Lima. An AeroPeru spokeswoman said the pilot of flight 603 reported mechanical failure five minutes after the aircraft took off in heavy fog, and contact was lost 15 minutes later.

The aircraft, which was bound for Santiago, was carrying 61 passengers, mostly Chilean, and nine crew. The Peruvian transport minister, Elsa Carrera de Escalante, said tape-recordings of the pilot suggested computer failure was to blame.

The Boeing 757, which first came into service in 1983, had

an unblemished safety record until 20 December last year when an American Airlines 757 en route from Miami crashed into a mountain in south-west Colombia, killing all but four of the 167 people on board. A navigational error by the pilot was blamed.

Six weeks later, a Birgenair Boeing 757, carrying charter passengers to Germany, crashed into the sea soon after take-off from the Dominican Republic, killing all 189 on board. A fault in the air-speed indicator, possibly caused by birds having nested in an inlet, and pilot error was blamed for the accident.

There are 723 Boeing 757s flying in the world and the one involved in yesterday's crash was the 505th to be built. Boeing was last night sending its own investigators to assess what had gone wrong.

DAEWOO

international

Gun salutes, grateful thanks ... a perfect goodbye

It was just as Britain wanted. The day before the handover, local Chinese leaders thanked the departing top British colonial administrator, presenting him with a symbolic bowl of pure water. The next morning, the British withdrawal was handed with pomp and mutual respect. Buglers, military bands, and two 15-gun salutes marked the raising of the Chinese flag, which for a few hours flew beside the British one. The chairman of the Chamber of Commerce spoke of how the British officials had "loved the people". The incoming Chinese commissioner said the colonial power had ruled wisely, and warned "evil-disposed persons" not to cause mischief during the transition period.

Finally, at sunset, the Union flag was lowered, and the British team sailed peacefully out of the harbour. Thus ended a short but fairly honorable chapter in British colonial history. All this may sound like some fantasy dreamed up by Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, as he contemplates his departure from Hong Kong on 30 June next year. But it is not. For, in the sensitive business of giving parts of China back to the motherland, Mr Patten has an illustrious predecessor. On 1 October 1930, it was Reginald Johnston, the last British Commissioner of Weihaiwei (and a former tutor of the last Emperor), who handed back this corner of Shandong province, east China, after 32 years of colonial rule.

On 1 July 1898 China granted leases for two areas to the British. One was Hong Kong's New Territories, which was turned over to the British for 99 years. The other was Weihaiwei, an area of 288 square miles on the north-east tip of Shandong province with 128,000 inhabitants, which Britain wanted as a naval base.

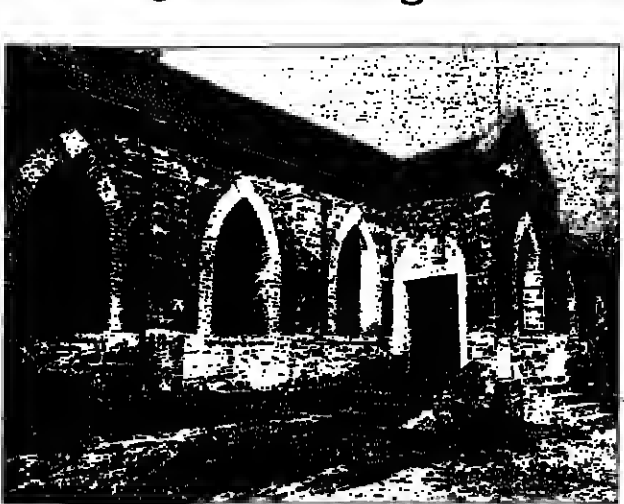
Weihaiwei was leased for "as long as Port Arthur shall remain in the occupation of Russia". Russia lost Port Arthur to the Japanese in 1905, but it was not until 1930, after eight years of protracted negotiations, that Weihaiwei was returned to China.

Like Hong Kong, Weihaiwei was run as a duty free trading entrepôt, and had a steady trade in ground nuts, bean-oil, silk, and salt. The pleasant climate also made Weihaiwei a popular summer recreation stop for the British Navy, and missionaries represented the rest of the small foreign community.

Relations with the Chinese in Shandong province were generally good. According to Dr Pamela Atwell's study of the period, *British Mandarins and Chinese Reformers*, the first civilian commissioner, James Lockhart, was in 1903 invited to a banquet in the provincial capital where his host's band "played foreign music throughout dinner and whenever it had the least excuse, *God save the King*". However, British commitment to Weihaiwei was always in doubt. In contrast with Hong Kong, the local inhabitants kept their Chinese nationality, and as early as 1902, London abandoned plans to construct a full naval base.

The British legacy these days is rather limited, even though Weihai (as it is now called) is, somewhat improbably, "twinned" with Cheltenham. A simple 32ft-high white marble column com-

memorates the British period – one foot for each year.



Legacy of colonialism: A church (left), and one of the villas built for British naval officers on Liugong Island off Weihai (centre)

memorates the British period – one foot for each year.

But one can find elderly locals who remember their old colonial masters. Gu Yuanjin, 89, was there the day the British left. "The Chinese followed the British to the port, and there was a military salute," How did he feel at the time? "It was glorious for the Chinese." And, he nodded approvingly, "the British left without taking any property". In those days, Mr Gu was a blacksmith. "I did not make friends with any British. But I went into almost every household of the British to repair locks, stoves, chimneys, doors and windows."

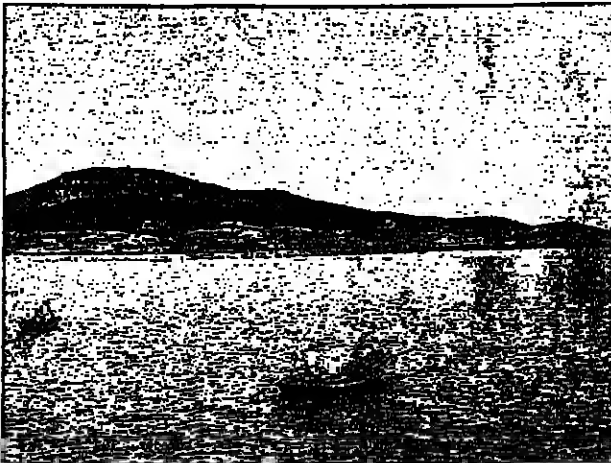
There is little resentment expressed against the British, probably because anti-Japanese feeling was so much stronger. Lu Zhenlian, 86, has lived her whole life in Heqing fishing village, in north Weihai. "We still have a blanket given by the British," said Ms Lu. "The big British ships threw things overboard, things they did not want. A lot of stockings, boots, food and so on. I was six or seven at the time. From May to August, the ships came. The things were all wet. The British were very kind to the Chinese."

Thus are colonial reputations made. Wang Zhenchang, 51, a restaurant manager in Weihai, said: "When I was a child, some old people told me that commercial British ships once came and wanted to hire some labourers. Because at that time the British did not like the meat, so they just drank the soup and gave the meat to the Chinese workers. So the Chinese said the British were quite good."

Meanwhile, one urban myth has gained currency among the locals, as told by Zou Deli, Weihai's foreign affairs chief. "Some people say Weihai was the birthplace of Mrs Thatcher, or that one of Thatcher's relatives was based here in the British navy and she lived here with him. According to British law, if you want to be a senior diplomat, you need to have a relative who is a senior military figure," he said.

British architectural remains can be found, often identified by Victorian-style red-brick chimneys. But access is limited. For Weihai is now a Chinese army and naval base and many of the old buildings are inside military compounds.

At the Weihai Port Primary School, the old church living quarters are used as teachers' offices. Inside, one can see the ceiling roses, boarded up fireplaces, and the original paint-



Liugong Island, where British naval officers built fine villas with terraces and conservatories up on the hillside. At one impressively proportioned bungalow, the Chinese Navy inhabitant laughed. "Chinese houses only have a door at the

front. The British have a door at the front and also at the back. In fact, there are doors everywhere. You can always get out!"

A visit to Weihai poses the question of what parallels can be drawn between the two handovers. In 1930, many of the



Photographs: Teresa Poole/Imperial War Museum

same contradictions were in evidence as in Hong Kong today. The day before rendition, posters declaring "China for the Chinese" and "Down with Imperialism" appeared on the city's lamp-posts. But in the weeks before 1 October 1930, several mer-

chants started to shift away money and move salt stocks to Japan, fearful of what a change in sovereignty might mean.

The early results of return to Chinese rule were not auspicious: there were street riots over new taxes, the number of

government officials quadrupled, land prices collapsed and Weihaiwei lost its status as a free port. More positively, the Chinese put greater efforts into education, campaigned against opium, and tried to shut down the opium dens. But Chinese rule proved short-lived. On 8 March 1938, the Japanese invaders took Weihaiwei and the city was once again under foreign rule.

For the past decade, Weihai life has finally started to improve with a thriving seafood industry, 4 million domestic tourists a year, a new port, and a technology development zone to attract foreign investment. Direct shipping links have opened to South Korea and Japan. At night, the skyline glows with ocean trademarks such as Samsung, and South Korean wiring adorns many buildings.

Now that modernisation is catching up with Weihai, one man pondered what might have been if Britain's Weihaiwei lease had also been for 99 years. "People say, if the British had stayed, Weihai would have been like Hong Kong," he laughed.

THE
CAT
IS
BACK.

Former PM shot dead in Bulgaria

ADRIAN BRIDGE

The air of crisis in Bulgaria intensified yesterday when a former prime minister, Andrei Lukanov, was shot dead in front of his home in Sofia. As police launched a search for the



Andrei Lukanov: Supporter of economic change

killer, parliamentarians across the political spectrum condemned the murder, describing it as the first political killing since the overthrow of communist rule in November 1989.

They unanimously adopted a declaration stating terrorism would not be allowed to destabilise Bulgaria and that presidential elections planned for later this month would go ahead.

Mr Lukanov, a former Communist who helped topple the

former dictator Todor Zhivkov, headed the two Socialist governments that followed Mr Zhivkov's 35-year rule. He was ousted in late 1990 after strikes and demonstrations in protest at the slow pace of reform.

Although he remained an influential Socialist MP, Mr Lukanov subsequently turned his attention to business. He became a strong supporter of economic change and was critical of Bulgaria's current Socialist Prime Minister, Zhan Videnov, who has delayed introducing free-market reforms.

Between February and April, Mr Lukanov was under security service protection following a threat on his life, but the protection was lifted when investigators felt the case had been solved. Speculation was rife yesterday as to who could have been behind the murder – and to what end. Some argued that it could have been one of the mafia-style shootings that have plagued the country since 1989; others insisted the motive had to be political.

According to Georgi Apostolov, deputy editor of the independent *Kontinent* newspaper, the killing could have been carried out at the instigation of extremists with the aim of forcing a postponement of the presidential election and of providing a pretext for the imposition of martial law.

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Fighting talk from Patten on democracy

CATHERINE SAMPSON
Hong Kong

With less than nine months before Britain hands Hong Kong over to Chinese rule, Governor Chris Patten yesterday warned Peking that he would go out fighting.

In the last "state of the colony" address to be given by a British governor, Mr Patten condemned Peking's plans to scrap Hong Kong's democratically elected legislature and replace it with what he calls a "rubber stamp".

"I sincerely hope that even at this late stage, this bad idea can be thought about again. It is unnecessary as well as provocative, and we will have nothing to do with it."

At a press conference later, Mr Patten warned that if the Peking-approved legislature attempted to become a shadow government before 1997, its

decisions could be challenged in court.

Mr Patten also warned China that he had no intention of becoming a lame-duck governor. The fact that this was the last speech, he said, "does not mean that government is closing down or is going into hibernation for nine months... it is business as usual."

China has insisted that Hong Kong is an "economic city" and must not be turned into a "political city". But yesterday, Mr Patten referred to the refugee history of many Hong Kong families, and lashed out at the perception of a people are only interested in money.

Ever since 1992, when he unveiled political reforms which Peking denounced as far too radical and which Hong Kong's democrats complained were too mild, Mr Patten has been walking a tightrope. Yesterday's speech, and Mr Patten's

refusal to go quietly, is expected to infuriate Peking. Mr Patten also rubbed salt into an open wound by insisting that Hong Kong would continue to increase welfare spending, something China's Communists have condemned.

Some of Hong Kong's pro-democracy activists poured scorn on Mr Patten's speech, saying he had promised nothing concrete to protect Hong Kong's freedoms.

Mr Patten said his greatest anxiety was not that Peking would usurp Hong Kong's freedom, but that some people in Hong Kong would undermine the territory's promised autonomy by running constantly to Peking for approval. He named no names, but Mr Patten has previously attacked figures in Hong Kong's business community, saying they have cosied up to China's Communist leaders, and often ask for Peking's

blessing on matters which should have been decided in Hong Kong. Mr Patten said his greatest frustration was that he had not been able to test the popularity of his policies at the ballot box.

However, Mr Patten said he was sure Hong Kong would weather the transfer of sovereignty and come out "glittering", and added he would "stand up and cheer" when it happened.

For all the brave talk, the participants in Peking, London or Hong Kong, all are now confronting the inevitable end of the British administration. Asked whether he had any regrets about his confrontation with Peking, Mr Patten said it had been a choice between confrontation with Peking or with the people of Hong Kong. "I know the difference," he said, "between right and wrong."



Last word: Chris Patten giving his final address to Hong Kong's Legislative Council yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

Peking orders children to take care of aged parents

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Filial piety and respect for the elderly can no longer be relied on as the bedrock of China's traditional Confucian values. So, bowing to the reality of fast-changing social mores, China yesterday implemented a new law banning the "neglect, humiliation and abuse" of old people. Under the legislation, children who refuse to give financial support to their elderly parents can, in theory, be punished.

After more than a decade of economic reform, provision for China's growing number of over-60s often falls into a black hole between the decaying "cradle-to-grave" welfare system and a nascent plan for pension reform. Zhang Wenfan, president of the China National Committee on Ageing, last month warned: "The traditional planned economy system and its social structures, including social guarantees for old people, will be pounded and destroyed by the market economy."

In the cities, old people mostly rely on state pensions from their former work units. But many of these state-owned enterprises are racked with debts and cannot pay salaries, let alone pensions and medical bills.

Millions of pensioners are owed money. Early this year, 71-year-old Meng Xiang and five former colleagues tried suing the Shandong Provincial Disinfecting Equipment Factory in Jinan city after not receiving their 90 yuan (£7.50) monthly pension for almost a year. But the factory was bankrupt and the local government department said it also had no funds.

In the countryside, retired farmers have no pension rights and rely on their families for support. Difficulties arise in poor areas where unemployment is already chronic, and the younger generation must leave the land to work in cities far away. Fear of old age is one of the main reasons farmers still want lots of children.

The new Law for the Protec-

tion of the Rights and Interests of Old People is supposed to define the roles of government, communities and families in looking after the elderly. For the government, the question of who will foot the bill for senior citizens is urgent. The combination of greater life expectancy and strict birth control means China is set for a faster "greying" demographic revolution than any other country in the world. The 110 million or so over-60s now account for almost 10 per cent of the population, but that will soar to more than 25 per cent by 2040, when the country will have to look after around 400 million people over 60.

Today's urban "Little Emperors", the spoilt children of the one-child policy, will in the next century be the lone providers for their parents and possibly two sets of grandparents. The problem is that in modern China, as in the West, the younger generation has other priorities.

Young adults no longer want to live in the traditional style of "three generations under one roof", especially after they get married. But even if money is available, there are very few old people's homes. One Chinese academic said: "The contribution of young people to society is lower [than the elderly] but their income is higher. The change in this economic position will definitely have an influence on the young's attitude to old people."

The new law nevertheless stipulates that most old people should remain in the care of their families, although central government and social organisations must provide a social security system for them. Developed areas ought to establish community welfare services for the elderly, it says.

When it is a question of romance late in life, the younger generation is often disapproving of new liaisons among bereaved parents. The law specifies that children of the elderly should not interfere in old people's remarriage.

Dole strains to tar Clinton with deadly L-word

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

Call an American politician a crook, a scoundrel or a liar, and it's water off a duck's back. If you really want to wound him, call him a liberal. So it is that Bob Dole, far behind in the polls, has in desperation unsheathed what Ronald Reagan dubbed "the L-word".

In the forthcoming presidential debates, Mr Dole vows daily to go after "that liberal, liberal, liberal Bill Clinton". The occupant of the White House is variously a "dyed-in-the-wool liberal," an "old-style liberal," or a "closet liberal" who will show his true colours once the election is over.

In fact, the challenger is taking his cue from the Republican ideologist-in-chief, Newt Gingrich. No-one wields the L-word more brutally than the Speaker of the House. His opponents are not Democrats, but "liberal Democrats" - not to be confused with the political party recently assembled in Brighton. Sometimes he expands the term to "pathetic liberal Democrats", scarcely distinguishable from the Reds that Senator Joseph McCarthy once hunted.

Here, the original free market, libertarian and Whiggish connotations of the term have vanished entirely (Indeed, America's Whigs were the fore-runners of the Republican Party). Liberals, as depicted by Messrs Dole and Gingrich, love high taxes, big government, foreign cars and mass murderers, and would sell out the country to the UN before you can say Boutros-Ghali.

Such is the downfall of a once noble word in America's political lexicon, under whose banner John Kennedy and Harry Truman marched - not to mention this century's greatest President, Franklin Roosevelt. Today's liberalism is a faith that dares not speak its name. A Democrat will call himself a "moderate", a "progressive", even "caring", anything to avoid the L-word.

THE US
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS

Such reluctance is understandable. It was "Sixties-liberalism" which wrecked things. Ever since, Republicans have used the L-word to batter hapless Democratic candidates for the White House. Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern, Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis were all were fatally painted as "liberals" out of touch with the "silent majority".

Since 1968, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton have been the only exceptions, suggesting that for a Democrat the only anti-



Roosevelt: Happy to march under the liberal banner

dote is solid red-neck credentials. Which is why, out on the campaign trail, the Clinton grin widens and his southern drawl deepens: a good-ol'-boy cannot be a liberal. Yet even Clinton is not entirely safe.

He may be an elusive target, tough on crime and values, agreeing to scrap FDR's federally guaranteed welfare for the poor, and generally stealing Republican issues by the dozen. But the Bill Clinton who opposed the Vietnam war and smoked (but did not inhale) marijuana was once the classic Sixties liberal.

Perhaps Mr Dole's last hope is to prove he still is.

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obituaries / gazette

Paul Erdős

Paul Erdős was one of the most brilliant and probably the most remarkable of mathematicians of this century. He greatly influenced many branches of mathematics and was the prime mover in the rapid growth of combinatorics, an area of mathematics fundamental to computer science.

He never had a "proper" teaching job, but constantly travelled around the world, in search of new challenges. Considering material possessions a nuisance, he lived for over 60 years out of half-full suitcases, which he never learnt to pack. His discarded suit was rejected by Oxford.

Erdős was the quintessential mathematician: although he was interested in history, medicine and politics, he was dedicated to mathematics. He wrote some 1,500 papers, about five times as many as other prolific mathematicians, and had close to 500 collaborators. His enormous output even inspired a linerick:

A conjecture both deep and profound
Is whether the circle is round.
In a paper by Erdős,
A counterexample is found.

According to a wit, on a long train journey he would write a joint paper with the conductor. Paul Erdős was born into an intellectual Hungarian-Jewish family in Budapest amidst tragic circumstances: when his mother returned home from the hospital she found that her two daughters had died of scarlet fever. Soon after the outbreak of the First World War, Erdős's father was taken prisoner by the Russians and returned home from Siberia only six years later. The young Erdős was brought up by his mother, a teacher of mathematics like his father, and he remained devoted to her all his life.

He was a child prodigy; as a small boy, he amused people by asking them how old they were and telling them how many seconds they had lived. He was educated mostly at home by his father, until 1930 when he entered the Péter Pázmány University in Budapest, where he was soon at the centre of a small group of outstanding young Jewish mathematicians. As a second-year undergraduate, he practically completed his doctorate under Leopold Fejér. His main result was a simple proof of an extension of Bertrand's Postulate, first proved by the Russian mathematician P.L. Chebyshev, that there is always at least one prime number between any positive integer and its double.

For Erdős, 1934 was a momentous year: not only did he

graduate from the university, but he also received his doctorate, and got a fellowship to join the remarkable group of mathematicians that was brought together by Louis Mordell in Manchester. He also met Richard Rado and Harold DeDonop, who became his great friends and collaborators.

In 1938, Erdős sailed for the United States, where he stayed for the next decade. During his first year, at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, he wrote ground-breaking papers with A. Wintner and Mark Kac, which founded probabilistic number theory, with R. Turán he proved great results in approximation theory, and he solved the then outstanding problem in dimension theory. When his Fellowship at the institute was not renewed, he started his peregrinations, with stays at the University of Pennsylvania, Notre Dame, Purdue and Stanford.

The great mathematical event of 1949 was an elementary proof of the Prime Number Theorem, given by Atle Selberg and Erdős. The result, which predicts the distribution of primes with some accuracy, was first proved in 1896 by sophisticated methods, and it had been thought that no elementary proof could be given.

In 1954, he fell foul of the McCarthy era: despite being refused a re-entry visa, he left the US and, as a result, for the next nine years he was not allowed to return to America. Israel came to his aid with a job for three months at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Although officially he became a resident of Israel, he refused its citizenship and kept his Hungarian passport, claiming that he was a citizen of the world.

Although in 1963 he was allowed to return to America, and from then on spent most of his time there, he could never forget the US government. From 1964, his mother, then aged 84, accompanied him on his travels.



Erdős: 'proof and conjecture'

els. This was a golden period for Erdős, who never recovered from her death in 1971.

In over six decades of furious activity, he wrote fundamental papers on number theory, real analysis, geometry, probability theory, complex analysis, approximation theory, set theory and combinatorics. His first great love was number theory, while in his later years he worked mostly in combinatorics. In 1966, with John Selfridge, he solved a notorious problem in number theory that had been open for over 100 years, namely that the product of consecutive positive integers (like 4.5.6.7.8) is never an exact square, cube or any higher power.

With Rado and A. Hajnal, he founded partition calculus, a branch of set theory, which is a detailed study of the relative sizes of large infinite sets. Nevertheless, he will be best remembered for his contributions to combinatorics, an area of mathematics fundamental to computer science. He founded extremal graph theory, his theorem with A.H. Stone being of prime importance, and with A. Rényi he started probabilistic graph theory. He advocated the use of elementary methods, in addition to techniques requiring vast preparation, and decades before it was commonly accepted he had shown the power of random methods in mathematics. He showed that simply stated problems often lead to exciting phenomena, and left behind hundreds of exciting problems whose solutions will influence combinatorics for years to come.

Sexual pleasure revolted him; even an accidental touch by anyone made him feel uncomfortable. He never married or had a family, though he was very good with children. He lived for mathematics and relied on his friends to look after him; in his later years he particularly liked to be in Budapest, Memphis and Kalamazoo where, in addition to his mathematical friends, he found good medical care. He hated to be alone, and almost never was; he loved to attend conferences and enjoyed the attention of mathematicians. His aim in life was "to do mathematics: to prove and conjecture".

A favourite saying of his was, "Every human activity, good or bad, must come to an end, except mathematics." He died as he wished to, before his powers were greatly diminished; while attending a conference, he was killed by a massive heart attack.

Béla Bollobás

Paul Erdős, mathematician; born Budapest 26 March 1913; died Warsaw 20 September 1996.



The Horowitz of tap: Draper with Ruby Keeler, dancing 'You've Got to Know How to Dance' in Alfred E. Green's film *Colleen*, 1936

Photograph: Photofest

Paul Draper

Paul Draper was the pioneer who introduced tap-dancing to the concert-hall. Uniquely, he combined modernistic interpretation and ballet movements with stylishly elegant tap performed to jazz and to classical music.

"He created an entirely original genre," the producer C.B. Cochran said, "by embroidering the more or less static movements of the tap dance with the grace and flexibility of the ballet and a discriminating choice of good music." He appeared on Broadway and in films, but is best known for the series of concerts he performed with the harmonica virtuoso Larry Adler, which brought them world fame until McCarthyism highlighted their careers.

He was born in Florence in 1909, to American parents who were artistically prominent - his mother was a writer and lecturer, his aunt the monologist Ruth Draper, and family friends included Picasso, Henry James and Arthur Rubinstein. At four, he was taken to the United States, where his home was filled with classical music. He developed an interest in tap-dancing but disliked the "cacophony of metal-plated shoes". Self-taught in the rudiments

of dance, he obtained a job as hallroom instructor at Arthur Murray's, where a fellow teacher taught him the time-step. He started devising dances for himself to the music of Duke Ellington and George Gershwin but could not interest New York producers, so in 1930 he embarked for Europe. He toured Britain in *Sensations of 1932*, then appeared at Le Bœuf sur le Toit, the Paris night-club designed by Cocteau, where he danced on a round marble pedestal 3ft high and 2ft wide. Returning to the US, he established himself in Vaudeville. "I had little competition," he said later. "There were a lot of ballroom-dancing acts, but almost nobody danced alone." An attempt to introduce Handel minuets and Bach into his act did not work, so he attended the School of American Ballet, after which he graduated to such cabaret spots as New York's Plaza and Waldorf.

His work now included satirical sketches in dance and an acclaimed piece entitled "Sonata for Tap Dancer" in which he danced without music, his feet becoming in effect a solo instrument. Vilma Ebsen, half of a star dancing act with her

brother Buddy, called him "The Horowitz of tap".

He made his Broadway debut in the revue *Thumbs Up* (1934), and in 1936 appeared in the film *Colleen*. Draper's number with Ruby Keeler, "You've Got to Know How to Dance", was overlong and disjointed, though Keeler later stated, "Lee Dixon and Paul Draper were the best partners I ever had", and in 1942 the couple were re-teamed in a two-reel short, *Six Hits and a Miss*. Draper's only other feature film was *The Time of Your Life* (1948), based on William Saroyan's play, in which he won praise as a compulsive dancer in the role Gene Kelly had played on Broadway. Two years earlier he had been given his finest film opportunity, a starring role with Bing Crosby in *Blue Skies*, but his producer who had cast him died six weeks into production and he was replaced by Fred Astaire, reputedly because of his stammer.

When Draper and Larry Adler appeared on the same bill at Radio City in 1933 the two discovered they were admirers of each other's work. Adler had already partnered Fred Astaire in the show *Smiles* (1931). In 1939, when Draper

and Adler were at last able to get together for a concert in Syracuse, New York, their success started a partnership which became world famous as they toured concert-halls for several months every year. Each performed solo, then joined forces at the end of each act. The version of Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" was a show-stopper, another highlight being a request spot where audiences chose the music and Draper ad-libbed a routine to Adler's playing.

Their partnership was to end in 1948 (though they remained close friends) when the infamous McCarthy had them blacklisted. Both had long been associated with left-wing causes - at the Rory Theatre in 1948 Draper performed "Political Speech", a dance satirising politicians' clichés, and was booed by the audience. Over 30 years later Draper stated, "I did do the things and belong to the organisations they said. I was happy to, and am still proud of it."

Engagements evaporated with the blacklist - Ed Sullivan not only cancelled their appearance on his show but publicly apologised to his sponsors for booking them - and Draper moved to Geneva, returning

to the New York stage in 1954 to receive a standing ovation. *All in One* (1955) was a triple bill of Bernstein's one-act opera *Trouble in Tahiti*, a Tennessee Williams play and a dance programme by Draper, but was too rarefied an evening for popular appeal. The same year he played the title role in Stravinsky's ballet *Histoire du soldat*, and from 1967 to 1978 he was a Professor of Liberal Arts at Carnegie-Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh. He and Adler were historically reunited for one performance in June 1975 at Carnegie Hall, prompting the *New York Times* to state: "Draper's dancing remains impeccably musical and impressively limber. He seemed barely to be touching the floor at times. One thinks naturally of Astaire and Bolger when Mr Draper is in full flight, but his style is so intense and serious that comparisons are not really to the point."

Draper himself saw the dancer's art as "shaping space". "The dancer," he said, "envisages, dreams, and conjures up the space he wants."

Tom Vailance

Paul Nathaniel Salomonsthal Draper, tap-dancer; born Florence 25 October 1909; married; died 20 September 1996.

Robert Bourassa

Robert Bourassa played a leading role in modernising the economy and social structure of Quebec. But his indecisiveness and ambiguity about Quebec's role in the Canadian federation were major factors in the revival of the separatist movement and the crisis it currently poses to Canadian unity.

Bourassa was premier and head of the Quebec provincial Liberal Party twice, from 1970 to 1976 and from 1985 until 1993 - both turbulent eras in the relationship between Quebec and the rest of the country. Throughout these periods he walked a tightrope between a Quebec nationalism that would flourish within the broader confines of the Canadian federation and the pressures for an independent state.

Towards the end of his political career, he became a more committed defender and advocate of federalism, committing himself to a package of constitutional reforms known as the Charlottetown Accord that was

put to the test of a national referendum in October 1993.

These reforms would have recognised Quebec as a distinct society within Canada with a special responsibility for the protection and promotion of the French language and Quebec culture. It would have also made significant changes to the structure of the Canadian Parliament, changing the upper house from an appointed to an elected body, along the lines of the United States Senate.

But the package was turned down massively in Quebec, and failed to get majority support in the rest of the country. Shortly after the vote, Bourassa, who had already fought off two rounds of the melonoma which finally took his life, announced he would not seek another term as premier and turned over the Quebec Liberal Party and the premiership to Daniel Johnson, who was defeated by the separatist Bloc Québécois a year later.

Born to a middle-class family in Montreal in 1933, Bourassa

initially studied law, and was admitted to the Quebec bar in 1957. He subsequently did graduate studies in economics at Oxford and Harvard. Returning to Canada, he worked as an adviser to the federal government on tax policy and taught at the University of Ottawa. In 1958 he married Andrée Simard, the daughter of a prominent Quebec industrialist and shipbuilder, which gave him the financial freedom to pursue his studies independently and to finance his political career. This began in 1966 when he was elected to the provincial parliament from Mercier, a Montreal suburban riding (constituency).

His first encounter with power began in 1970, when he was the surprise winner of the leadership of the Quebec Liberal Party and led it to victory in a provincial election. He was only 36, insecure and inexperienced, and unprepared to deal with escalating violence from a militant branch of the separatist movement.

There had been isolated bombings before, but what became known as the "October Crisis" of 1970 came to a head with the kidnapping of the British trade commissioner James Cross and the murder of one of Bourassa's cabinet ministers, Pierre Laporte. The federal government led by the former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau moved in to declare a state of martial law. Separatists were rounded up and detained briefly without trial and Canadian soldiers and tanks patrolled the streets of Montreal.

Historians have suggested it was an over-reaction, but the federal government was prompted to move so dramatically by its perception of Bourassa's weakness. Calm was restored, Cross was released unharmed, and there has been no political violence since. But Bourassa's credibility was seriously damaged.

His government implemented reforms in education and healthcare, curtailing the influence of the Roman Catholic



Bourassa: nine lives

church in both fields. But he became embroiled in scandals about patronage and funding, and his government was routed in the 1976 provincial election by the separatist-leaning Parti Québécois and its charismatic leader René Lévesque. Bourassa slunk off to Brussels to a university teaching position and to study the structure of the European community as a model for Canada and Quebec.

He came back to Canada to campaign on the winning federal side in the 1980 Quebec referendum, and three years later easily regained the leadership of the Quebec Liberal Party, leading it to victory over the Parti Québécois in 1985.

In his second term, Bourassa pushed economic development by developing the huge hydro-electric potential in northern Quebec and selling surplus power at a large profit to the New England states. But he could not resolve the linguistic tensions that still bedeviled the province, even though he passed controversial legislation enforcing the use of French, parts of which were struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada as unconstitutional restrictions on the right of free speech.

The Supreme Court had suggested a compromise in Quebec that could have required French to be twice as prominent as any other language on outdoor signs, but the premier dithered between the French-language

militants and the moderates.

He decided to use an obscure provision to override the constitution and the court, forcing the removal of English or other languages from all outdoor signs. But that move so angered people in the rest of the country that another attempt at accommodating Quebec's "distinct status" within the constitution, known as the Meech Lake Accord, was defeated.

Perceived by Quebecers as a rejection by the other provinces, the failure to ratify the Meech Lake Accord gave new life to the Quebec separatist movement and led to the current situation with the Parti Québécois back in power.

Bourassa's ambiguity towards the national question was in tune with a majority of Quebecers and he was a much more popular figure in his second term. There was an outpouring of sympathy when it became known that he had delayed seeking treatment when his cancer was first discovered in

summer 1990, because he felt he couldn't be absent during a tense stand-off between Quebec police and Mohawk warriors who had barricaded off areas around Montreal, claiming aboriginal rights to the land.

His earlier successes in warding off the melonoma and his peripatetic political career had earned him a reputation as a cat with the proverbial nine lives. As one political columnist wrote earlier this week: "It is hard to imagine a Quebec in which Bourassa is not somehow at hand: like a cat, remote and slinky, toying with the political limits of the Quebec psyche with his little cat paws."

Hugh Winsor

Robert Bourassa, politician and economist; born St Pierre Claver, Quebec, Canada 14 July 1933; Leader, Liberal Party of Quebec 1970-77, 1983-93; Prime Minister of Quebec 1970-76, 1985-93; married 1958 Andrée Simard (one son, one daughter); died Montreal 2 October 1996.

BIRTHS

PRICE: On 22 September to Lynn (née Miles) and Ian, a beautiful daughter Eleanor Frances.

DEATHS

BROWN: The Right Hon Sir Patrick Reginald Evelyn, on Tuesday 1 October 1996 in his 94th year, peacefully at home with his family. Funeral service at St George's Church, Thurston, on Monday 8 October at 11am followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only please. Trees can be planted in his memory by arrangement with the Wordington Trust. The Autumn Park, Dyson, Grantham NG31 6LL.

MILNE: Kenneth Arthur, 30 September 1996, peacefully in hospital aged 89 years. Emeritus Professor of English Literature, Liverpool University, and Fellow of the British Academy. Loved husband of the late Mary, dear father of Katharine (deceased) and David, daughter-in-law Evelyn, grandchildren Thomas and Kathryn. Private cremation at Llandudno Crematorium, Birkenhead, Wirral on Wednesday 4 October at 11.30am followed by Memorial Service at St Saviour's.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Church, Ormsay, Wirral, at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Leukemia Research, Great Ormond Street, London WC1. All enquiries to: J.W. Bell & Son, 61a House, Pasture Road, Moreton, Wirral, 0151-677 5057.

WILSON: Mairi, died 30 September 1996 after a long fight against cancer. Beloved wife of Hugh, proud mother of Sarah, Elizabeth and Michael, dear daughter of Tom Heaney, and generous friend to many. Also late Bourville, College and CEFESW. The funeral will take place at Otton Friary, St Bernard's Road, Solihull, on Monday 7 October at 2pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund c/o Mrs J. Lovell-Dunn, Charnwood, 25a The Crescent, Solihull B91 1JR.

For GAZETTE, please telephone 0171-293 2011.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.M. Montague-Fuller and Miss A.M.W. Wallbank. The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of the late Mr Brian Montague-Fuller and of Mrs John Platt, of Withington, Gloucestershire, and Alice, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Wallbank, of Selly Park, Birmingham.

Anniversaries

Births: Pierre Bonnard, painter, 1867; Sir Michael Murray Horwood, 1911. Deaths: Sir Francis of Assisi, 1225; William Morris, writer, artist and printer, 1896; Jean Auloubert, playwright, 1987. On this day the international distress signal SOS was adopted, 1906. Today is the Feast Day of St Anselmus, St Froilan, St Gerard of Brogne, St Ewald the Dark, St Ewald the Fair, St Haychius and St Thomas Cantelupe of Hereford.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Princess Louise of Wales, opens a new International Red Cross Appeal, South Yorkshire, and visits the Macclesfield Museum. The Princess Royal, Princess Louise of Wales, opens a new International Red Cross Appeal, South Yorkshire, and visits the Macclesfield Museum. The Princess Royal, Princess Louise of Wales, opens a new International Red Cross Appeal, South Yorkshire, and visits the Macclesfield Museum.

English action 'not related' to Spanish proceedings

LAW REPORT

3 October 1996

Sarrio SA v Kuwait Investment Authority. Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Brooke) 12 August 1996

The question whether proceedings brought in two different states were "related actions" for the purpose of article 22 of the Brussels Convention, as scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, so as to entitle any court other than that first seized to stay the action, depended on whether the primary issues of fact, upon which the reasoning of the judgment of the court first seized must necessarily be based, were the same or different in the two sets of proceedings.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Sarrio SA, against the decision of Mr Justice Mance ([1996] 1 Lloyd's Rep 650) who, on the application of the defendant, the Kuwait Investment Authority, had stayed the plaintiff's actions because

they were related to actions already commenced in Spain and there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments in the two jurisdictions.

Charles Hollander (Linklaters & Paines) for the plaintiff, Andrew Popplewell and Paul Wright (Baker & McKenzie) for the defendant.

Lord Justice Evans said the plaintiff was a Spanish company, domiciled in Spain. The defendant could be described as the investment arm of the government of Kuwait, though it was a separate legal entity. It was based in Kuwait but had a branch office in London.

The subject matter of the English actions was a claim for damages for negligent misrepresentation allegedly made on behalf of the defendant in the course of negotiations for the sale of part of the plaintiff's business to Grupo Torras SA, who represented the de-

fendant's investments in Spain. The defendant objected to the jurisdiction of the English court essentially because the plaintiff should be required to consolidate these actions with proceedings it had already brought in Spain. The Spanish proceedings did not include the claim for damages for negligent misrepresentation made in these actions, but they arose out of the sale contract between the plaintiff and Grupo Torras which the representations were alleged to have induced. The defendant therefore contended that the two sets of proceedings either involved the same cause of action, within article 21 of the Convention, or that they were related actions within article 22 and should be heard together in Spain.

Put shortly, the central issue in Spain was whether the contractual undertakings made by or in the name of Grupo Tor-

ras were binding as a matter of law on the defendant as owner of its shares; in England, whether Javier de la Rosa, the person who negotiated the sale contract with the plaintiff, made certain representations on behalf of the defendant, in addition to and apart from whatever he said on behalf of Grupo Torras.

Both sets of proceedings required an investigation of the history of the negotiations and background circumstances. The judge concluded, and his Lordship agreed, that the causes of action and the objects of the two sets of proceedings were different, and therefore article 21 of the Convention did not require the English court to decline jurisdiction.

Article 22 provided that where "related actions" were brought in two contracting states (as Spain and England were) any court other than the

first seized might stay its proceedings or decline jurisdiction, and that:

For the purpose of this article, actions are deemed to be related when they are so closely connected that it is expedient to hear and determine them together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments.

Whether these and the Spanish proceedings were "related actions" depended on an overall consideration of the extent to which there was a risk that the judgment of the Spanish court would be irreconcilable with the judgment in these actions, if permitted to proceed.

Applying the test set by the European Court of Justice in *The Mervil Raju* [1995] 1 Lloyd's Rep 302, the primary issues of fact, on which the court's "reasoning" for its decision would be based, were distinct in these actions from those raised in Spain. It followed that there was no risk of irreconcilable judgments so as to make article 22 apply.

Paul Magraith, Barrister

Fight the last colonial fight, Sir Christopher

There has been nothing so democratic in our ownership of Hong Kong as our preparations for the leaving of it. For more than 150 years, Britain saw little reason to consult the people of Hong Kong on the governance of our wealthy little Asian colony. As next year's handover to Chinese rule has crept nearer, Sir Christopher Patten, the last Governor, has been assiduous, energetic, even strident in setting up minimally democratic structures and insisting that Peking must respect them. Is this hypocrisy? Or cheek? Or is it simply the least we could do for our former citizens before we handed them over to the world's last Communist superpower?

Sir Christopher has not always played his few cards well. But the sniping of Chinese apologists in this country, and the occasional lack of support from the Government to which he once belonged, are undeserved. The last Governor has been fighting an impossible battle. He will not get his way. Peking will abolish LegCo, the democratically elected but tediously entitled Hong Kong assembly, next year. It will impose its own hand-picked assembly and its own place-man as chief executive. But the fact that Sir Christopher's battle was fought at all will make it harder for Peking to ignore political and human rights in

Hong Kong. The democratic forces in our last significant colony have been mobilised as never before. The attention of the world has been focused on China's behaviour from July onwards. Neither are worth a great deal, but both are worth something.

The China-sympathisers, led by our former ambassador to Peking, Sir Percy Cradock, argue that Patten's obstinacy has forced Peking to become more obdurate. In other words, China would have taken a more liberal approach to a post-British Hong Kong if we had not insisted on rubbing their noses in the dangerous concept of democracy. We doubt it. The transition would have been fraught with dangers in either case. But the presence of a vocal and active democratic movement in Hong Kong – little of which existed before – should help to persuade Peking to respect Hong Kong's radically different history and political culture. These differences are understandably threatening to the Communist gerontocracy, but also vitally important to them. In the end, Peking's own best political and economic interests are served by a successful Hong Kong, and this must be a Hong Kong that remains united with the Western world although re-connected to China.

At this late stage, Patten is no longer in a position to push out the

boundaries of liberalisation. But in his final annual policy speech yesterday he signalled his intention to kick and scream to the end to defend the advances he has made. In particular, he warned Peking that he would have no truck with its alternative, unelected assembly. He also came his closest yet to stating that the scrapping after the July handover of his own, democratic infant – LegCo – would be illegal, and a direct breach of the Sino-UK joint declaration on Hong Kong. He also rejected China's criticisms of his Bill of Rights and, quite rightly, ridiculed the idea that Hong Kong people do

not care about human rights or political freedoms. Although Sir Christopher has less than nine months left in charge, he let it be known that he intends to keep his hand on the helm by setting out a series of new, supposedly non-controversial measures to improve "quality of life". The territory's democracy camp complained that this was not enough. They demanded some form of further "action" by Sir Christopher, and Britain, to warn Peking off. It is not at all clear what they seriously think Sir Christopher can do, over and above what he is doing.

Sir Percy Cradock and his ilk argue

that there is no point in upsetting the Chinese with the handover so close. But then they have never shown any inclination to hold the Chinese to the spirit, or many of the letters, of the agreements they helped to negotiate with Peking. The view of the Cradockites appears to be that our only duty to Hong Kong is economic: our final task is to leave the territory in good shape as an efficient money-making machine. That is the best hope for the territory's future, they say; to attempt anything more is not only foolish and irresponsible, but arouses impossible hopes among the populace. This ignores the community's enthusiastic participation in last year's Legislative Council election.

The reality is that economic development does not take place in a political vacuum. When life ceases to be just a struggle for existence, people begin to think for themselves, a lesson societies all over Asia are learning (despite all the loose talk about "Asian values"). Hong Kong thrived within the stuffy, but benign anomaly of British colonial status. That does not mean it would thrive under autocratic rule from China. Under British rule, there was no democracy but there was little state control either (some might argue, too little). Despite its change of status – one might say because of its change of status – a

sophisticated and prosperous community such as Hong Kong will require considerable freedom of thought and freedom of expression if it is to thrive and grow. Direct democracy was always too much to hope for. But the fight is worth having if it persuades Peking to treat its returning daughter as a grown-up. As Peking is presumably aware, its success or failure will have a crucial bearing on a still greater ambition: the eventual re-unification of the mainland and Taiwan.

Forget it all ...

How is it that black holes, a phenomenon we barely understand, have become such a popular symbol of our godless, negative existence? Stephen Hawking is a best-seller; *Star Trek* plays with unkillable doom. Pessimistic doomsmongers will no doubt interpret yesterday's news of a black hole sucking us toward long-distant oblivion as confirmation of the ultimate futility of life.

But look on the bright side. Deprived of heaven and hope, we could fantasise about a universe on the far side of darkness where life is free of millennialism, party conferences, and all kinds of other political pretension.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Neglected victims of the Holocaust

Sir: As a child survivor of Belsen concentration camp, I fully endorse the points raised in the letter "Use Nazi gold to ease plight of survivors" (1 October).

The youngest living child survivor of Belsen I know personally will be 54 years old this month, the youngest hidden child survivor of the Holocaust from Holland that I know personally is a mere 53. Both, I am confident, have many more years to live with the trauma of their experiences and the loss of beloved parents, friends, and relatives.

We are, indeed, a neglected group. In the immediate postwar years it was felt that we were too young to have suffered, and that we would soon recover from our experiences.

Time has proved this heartless view not to be true. With the process of ageing, and the gradual natural demise of the few surviving relatives we still had after the war, the trauma of our experiences has been reinforced.

Let action be taken now to provide the means by which we might gain the respite so earnestly sought by all of us who still suffer daily from the consequences of the Holocaust.

JACK SANTACROSS
Wembley Park, Middlesex

Blame judges, not juries

Sir: Glenda Cooper ("Twelve confused men and women", 30 September) advocates removal of the jury system unless jurors can comprehend the meaning of two basic tenets of our criminal law system, namely the effect of good character and the meaning of reasonable doubt. This is an argument for the removal of judges who have not the capacity to explain sufficiently such basic and simple concepts to a jury.

The rest of the article sets out excellent reasons why juries must remain, but potential jurors should be treated with more respect and not just paid court to when they are in the course of trying a case.

MICHAEL BECKMAN QC
Lincoln's Inn
London WC2

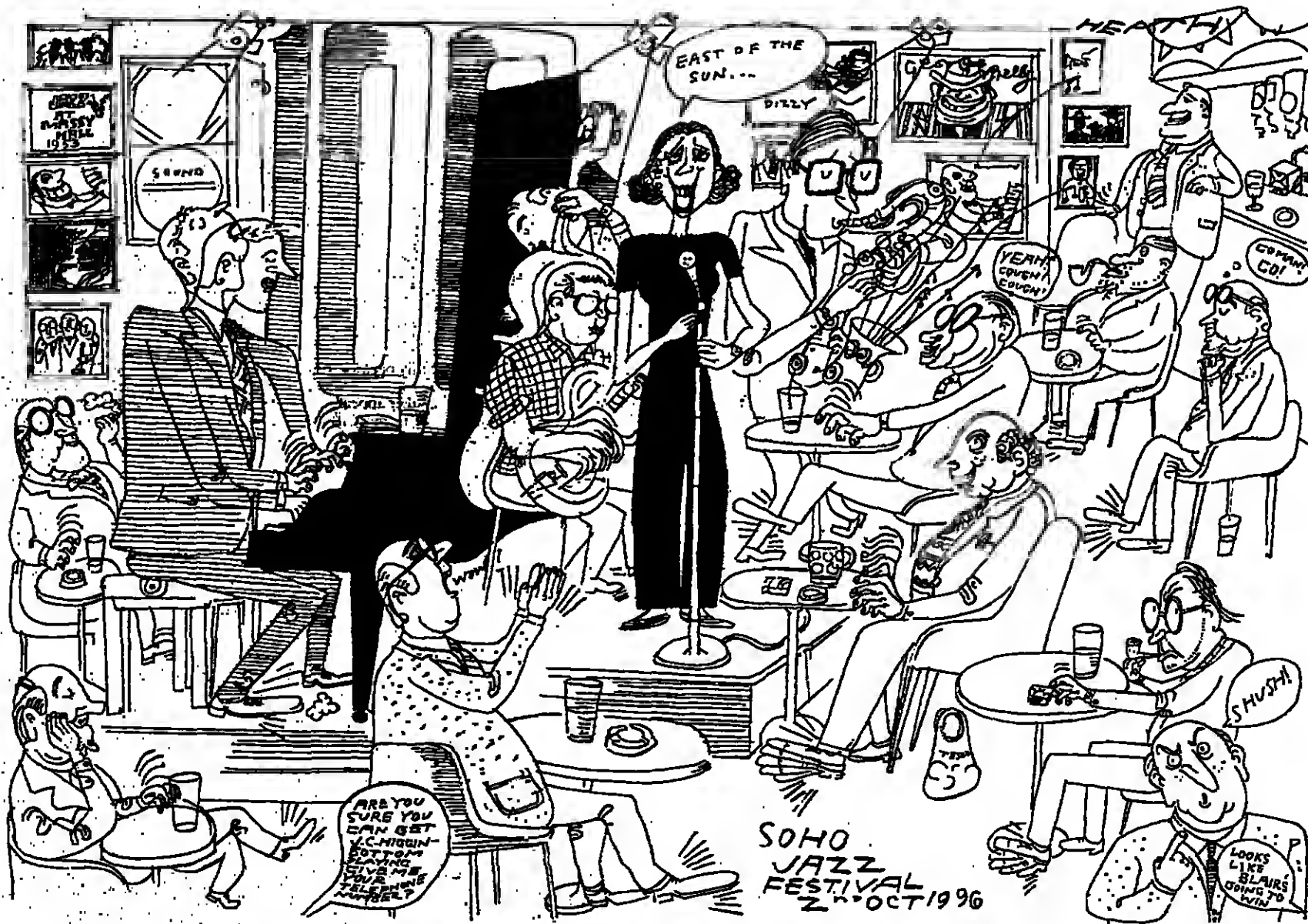
Kick in the teeth for young jobless

Sir: Next Monday's changes to Job Seekers Allowance are yet another ingredient in the "poisonous cocktail" of policies that can lead to crime, as recently described by government minister Tom Sackville.

The new rules, which cut money for young people and make it harder to take up educational opportunities, are a kick in the teeth for young, unemployed people. They face greater hardship and the risk of being pushed into poorly paid and part-time jobs, while real opportunities, such as study and training for solid employment will be blocked.

The result could be an increase in crime – it is no coincidence that two-thirds of people on probation are unemployed and that benefits are their only source of income.

Not only is there research to prove that one-third of offending behaviour can be cut by providing employment, but our probation



Michael Heath's Britain: At the Soho Jazz Festival yesterday

officers deal with young offenders each day whose main reason for offending is that they are struggling to survive and see no hope of ever finding a job.

ROGER STRATHAM
Chief Probation Officer, Cleveland
Probation Service
Middlesbrough

Rescue the child workers

Sir: Kenneth Clarke deserves the praise he is getting from Oxfam supporters for his stand on reducing the debts of the poorest countries ("IMP to give Uganda \$80m Christmas present", 1 October), and maybe even more for supporting the abolition of tariffs on their exports. That is the only way they are ever going to stop being poor.

The opposition of France and the United States to this plan is therefore to be deplored, but their desire for minimum labour standards, particularly for children, deserves respect. It seems curious that these ideas appear to be seen as alternatives.

Millions of children are being robbed of their childhood and of their one chance of education by being made to work – sometimes forced – in hazardous or at risk of physical, mental or sexual abuse. In 1992 the International Labour Organisation launched its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. Those Oxfam supporters (and others) could do worse than to urge Mr Clarke to give it his backing.

BILL LINTON
London N13

Openness at the National Trust

Sir: The agenda for the coming annual general meeting of the National Trust on 2 November includes a members' resolution which draws attention to the somewhat unusual status of members' resolutions at annual general meetings of the Trust.

The statutes of the Trust state clearly, no doubt for good reason, that the Trust is not bound by any vote taken on a members' resolution. Nevertheless, it is the custom for members to vote on such resolutions either by being present or by the use of mandated or unmandated votes.

At last year's annual general meeting, three different non-political resolutions concerning the governance of the Trust and the preservation of its properties were supported by about 15,000 votes and opposed by about 50,000 votes (either mandated or unmandated). As the voting is not binding on the Trust, the purpose of the vote is presumably purely advisory. Yet the Trust is unwilling to state how many of the 50,000 or so votes against the resolutions were mandated and how many unmandated (and presumably mainly cast at the discretion of the chairmen).

Bearing in mind that the result of this voting is in no way binding on the Trust, it appears to us unfortunate that the Trust is unwilling to set out a more complete account of members' opinions. We therefore hope that

members will read the resolution urging more openness about the voting result on this year's agenda and then express their opinion either at the meeting or by a mandated proxy vote.

East KITCHENER of Kharoum
Dr JOHN WILKS
Oxford

Greenpeace did help on fridges

Sir: In creating the impression that fridge manufacturers would have adopted hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants with or without the efforts of Greenpeace's campaigning, following the phase-out of CFCs, Richard North conveniently ignores one or two key facts.

When CFCs were phased out, European and British fridge manufacturers invested considerable resources in switching to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs were launched as the final solution to environmentally damaging refrigerants because they do not damage the ozone layer. Yet they are greenhouse gases up to 1,800 times more powerful than carbon dioxide, and as such are vigorously opposed by Greenpeace.

Investment in new technology costs money and is not taken lightly. Already committed to HFCs, manufacturers would not have easily invested only a couple of years later in another

technology. Clearly, the move to hydrocarbons only came as a result of consumers responding to Greenpeace campaigns and pressure on manufacturers from Greenpeace's constant publicity and lobbying.

To imply that without Greenpeace, HCs would have caught on anyway is either naive or in gross ignorance of the facts.

PAUL BLACKLOCK
General Manager, Calor Gas
Refrigeration
Slough, Berkshire

Opposite Poles

Sir: Your feature on ethnic jokes ("Why did the Irishman break the rules?", 30 September) missed one point: there are jokes that can be understood in alternative ways.

Here's one. In 1945, a joint Soviet-Polish commission is establishing a new frontier. There is a farm right on the line.

They decide to ask the farmer for his preference. He replies that he wants to be in Poland, because in Russia it's so cold in the winter.

When I was first told this joke (in London) it was clearly meant to show that Poles are stupid. Later, in Poland, I tried it on my interpreter, a passionately patriotic Polish woman.

She beamed and said: "There you are – we Poles are so cunning, we can always make rings round the Russians."

MERVYN JONES
London SW1

Painkillers over the counter

Sir: Professor Sir David Carter's view that the sale of paracetamol should be restricted has my sympathy ("Ban pain drugs, says leading surgeon", 1 October).

Pharmacists have consistently expressed their concern that – when so few tablets can cause an overdose – paracetamol should be so freely available in drugstores, grocers and on garage forecourts, where there is no possibility of input from a healthcare professional.

The Medicines Control Agency is now considering relaxing the controls on paracetamol, allowing children's liquid paracetamol, currently available only through pharmacies, to be sold in the same way.

We urge the MCA to rethink its plans and to make products containing paracetamol available only on prescription or from pharmacies, where there is always a pharmacist on hand to advise on how to use medicines safely and effectively.

COLETTE MCCREEDY
Head of Public Affairs, the National
Pharmaceutical Association
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Recipe for Brown

Sir: In answer to John White's question (Letters, 2 October) about the Tories' "cooked books", Gordon Brown should make them public as part of a Freedom of Information Act, so that we can see what the real state of the country's economy is.

B COLEMAN
Blackmore, Essex

Jung cult all in Noll's mind

Sir: Richard Noll's *The Jung Cult*, which has been widely discussed in the UK as well as in the US since its initial publication in 1994, is wholly unoriginal ("Carl Jung: a 'psychic pyramid seller'", 1 October).

Freud and his earliest followers charged Jung with mysticism, self-deification, and anti-Semitism. Rooting all of Jung's ideas in turn-of-the-century occultism, nationalism, and anti-Semitic Germanic cultural movements, as Noll does, is one-sided. Of course, Jung was keenly interested in cultural trends. But he was interested in them as projections of psychological states, not as political movements.

Rather than yearning to restore a pristine, pagan, pre-Christian past, as Noll argues, Jung strove to forge a new, post-religious, post-Christian present. He sought not to revive an old religion but to establish psychology in place of religion. Jung's appeal has always been not to cultural Luddites but to scientifically minded moderns.

Noll provides no evidence of any secret Jungian organisation. The cult turns out to be only the innocuous Analytical Psychology Club of Zurich.

ROBERT A SEGAL
Reader in Theory of Religion
Lancaster University

'Woman' is such a rude word

Sir: I am with Marie Patterson 100 per cent (Letter, 1 October). The first culture shock today's British traveller gets when flying to the United States is to be greeted by the signs on the lavatory doors – "Men" and "Women" – at JFK airport. I am definitely a lady, and have been for nearly 70 years.

Furthermore, I would not dream of referring to my faithful Mrs Mopp as a "clever woman". "Woman", in my English usage, is rude and derogatory.

JUNE TATHAM
London SW3

Sir: I well remember the headmaster of the village school I attended, pulling up a pupil who referred to "ladies". He said: "There are no ladies, only men and women!" That was over 75 years ago.

MOLLY BOWN
Cambridge

County counsel

Sir: I wish to correct a quotation attributed to me ("A new model candidate", 30 September). I am very proud of the results of my school, Bramcote Park School in Nottinghamshire – not Derbyshire as was mistakenly stated in a Labour Party document, which you quoted.

LIZ BLACKMAN
Labour Parliamentary
Spokeswoman for Erwash
Chilwell, Nottinghamshire

Tunnel vision?

Sir: Last night, on a French radio station, I heard the Israeli ambassador to France affirm his government's belief in the peace process as, after so many years of conflict with its Arab neighbours, "nous voulons voir la lumière au bout du tunnel" (we want to see the light at the end of the tunnel). A diplomatic metaphor?

NICOLE MAXTED
Timperley, Cheshire

queen & country

A queen who found herself left of the Tories



Elizabeth II always disliked Margaret Thatcher. But her distaste for harder-edged Toryism started with earlier prime ministers. In the first of three extracts from his new biography, Ben Pimlott looks at a ruler who has been a left-wing influence

In the Queen's relations with Mrs Thatcher there was a rigidity that never softened. The tales of a stiffness between them began early, before Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister. Harold Wilson's press secretary, Joe Haines, remembers the Labour Prime Minister gleefully passing on a story told him in an audience shortly after Mrs Thatcher became Leader of the Opposition, about her fainting during a Palace function. According to Wilson, the way the Queen told it was revealing. "She doesn't like her," he confided. According to another version, her fainting at the Palace was a habit. On one occasion, Mrs Thatcher felt so faint at dinner that she had to retreat to the lavatory. A short time later, at a similar event, the same thing happened. "She's keeled over again," said the Queen to fellow guests, as soon as the Tory leader was out of the room.

It was after Mrs Thatcher formed a government, however, that the degree of incompatibility became widely apparent. In private, both the Queen and her husband gave the impression that the Prime Minister was "not their favourite woman", as one close friend of the royal couple puts it. "The relationship is the more difficult because their roles seem confused; the Queen's style is more matter-of-fact and domestic, while it is Mrs Thatcher (who is taller) who bears herself like a Queen," wrote Anthony Sampson in 1982. Audiences which had been easy, friendly and even warm with Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan ceased to be intimate occasions, and became hushed, formal ones. "Why does she always sit on the edge of her seat?" the Queen once asked a Tory peer. The queenly, even imperial, style of the Prime Minister, strengthened by the Falklands War, seemed to grow with the passage of time, as her electoral triumphs made her appear invincible. "She got grander

and grander," recalls a Whitehall adviser, "and I would have thought this would have gone down badly with the Queen."

There was also a kind of mutual condescension. The Palace seems to have regarded Thatcherite fervour as vulgar, while the Thatcherites considered the Palace irrelevant and effete. It was part personal, part political. The mood at No 10 was dismissive, and the monarchy was given bottom priority. "The Palace was on a mental check list," says one former Thatcher adviser. "It was mainly a matter of kicking yourself to remember about its involvement, of saying 'For God's sake, get the Palace's permission', if we were going abroad, or 'For God's sake get the agenda ready for the Audience'."

"Although Mrs Thatcher was enormously punctilious about curtesying," says a Whitehall official who advised several Prime Ministers, "I am not sure how important she thought the Queen was." Preparation for audiences consisted of the Prime Minister's private secretary handing her a card with three topics for discussion on it, which she would read on the way to the Palace. Where Wilson and Callaghan unashamedly enjoyed it, Mrs Thatcher treated royal visiting as a tedious waste of time. She regarded trips to Balmoral as purgatory. "I don't think they got beyond the Ma'am and Prime Minister stage," he says. "She was not at ease with it," says a former close adviser. "It was symptomatic that, on the last day of the obligatory visit, she would arrange to leave at 6am. She couldn't get away fast enough."

All this, however, was comparatively minor. What mattered much more – and lay beneath the resentment and irritation which characterised the attitude of No 10 staff, was the feeling that Buckingham Palace was alarmed by some of the things the Conservatives were doing. It was not, of

course, entirely new for a constitutional monarch to be at odds with his or her own ministers on political matters. George VI's "gnashes" had sometimes focused on the Labour government's attacks on private property, and the Queen Mother continued happily to talk to all comers about the misdeeds of Communists and leftwingers in the Labour Party or at the BBC.

What made the Thatcher era different was an aspect that transcended domestic politics, or even international policy in the normal sense. The Queen never commented openly. However, speculation began, which grew into an assumption, that the Queen and her Palace advisers had a greater concern for the welfare and preservation of the Commonwealth, and hence a greater concern to accommodate Commonwealth opinion, than did her government.

1983 was a politically decisive year. In June, a general election produced the largest Conservative majority for more than half a century. It was an extraordinary turnaround for Mrs Thatcher who, only 18 months earlier, had been the most unpopular prime minister on record. Now, in the wake of the Falklands victory and with the opposition split and marginalised, the supremacy of the Conservative Party, and the apparent invincibility of its leader, provided scope for a centralised use of power far more autocratic than at the time of Lord Hailsham's famous Dumbleby lecture in 1976, when he had warned of an "elective dictatorship".

For a monarchy that wanted to stay outside the political arena, it was not a comfortable situation. One of the classic justifications for an hereditary head of state was that he or she could provide a base of neutral common sense – performing the role, as the constitutional expert Sir Ivor Jennings put it at the beginning of the reign, of the "good solid citizen". Thus, the monarch was supposed to be part of the system of checks and balances, the more valuable because royal restraint could be applied behind the scenes. "To have such a person at the centre of affairs, cool, calm and judicious is a great advantage," explained Jennings, "especially with a brilliant but wayward Prime Minister."

But what if the brilliant but wayward leader obtained a resounding mandate from the people? And what if the threat of waywardness came from the

right? The conventional account had been based on an assumption that any radical disturbance to the equilibrium would be left-wing. When the possibility was discussed, people thought fondly of the calming effect George V was imagined to have had on Labour after the First World War, or of George VI after the Second, even perhaps, of Elizabeth II and Harold Wilson.

Conservative waywardness was a new proposition. How should a monarchy that abhorred any kind of involvement in controversy respond to a sharp, confrontational shift in the direction of the better-off? The question troubled the Queen's advisers on a number of occasions over the next few years, as royal attitudes that had previously been assumed to be consensual were challenged, and new, radically reforming doctrines rocked the established order.

At first it was just a feeling,

but one that increased in strength after the second Tory victory, that monarch and premier did not chime. There were several things that pushed them apart. Not just the style, but also the priorities, of the uncompromising premier raised questions at the Palace. The "welfare monarchy", as Frank Prochaska has described it, did not find it easy to embrace a leader and an administration that treated welfare policies as soft.

On Commonwealth matters, the gap that existed between the Queen and her government was more overt. There was never any doubt that the interests of Commonwealth countries, including poorer ones, concerned the monarch much more than they did British ministers. A minor, but significant example of this difference

occurred after the 1983 election, at the time of a short-lived crisis involving Grenada, a Caribbean island with a population of less than 100,000, of which the Queen happened to be head of state. During the crisis, the Queen became concerned at a failure to tell her what was going on.

In one sense the problem was well handled. Following an upheaval in which the Grenadian prime minister was killed, the governor-general of the island, Sir Paul Scoon, asked the US government, together with neighbouring Caribbean states, to send troops to restore order. An invasion was quickly and efficiently mounted and the objective was achieved. However, the Queen as head of state had been neither consulted nor informed, by Scoon or anybody else.

The Queen was reported to be furious – as much with Mrs Thatcher as with Scoon or the

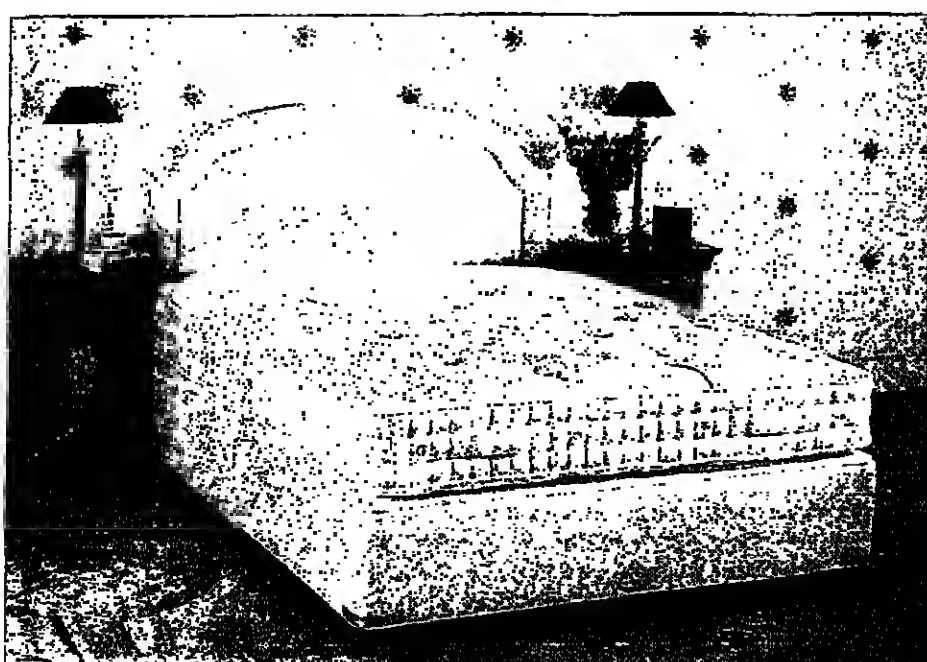
Americans – about being so deliberately or carelessly ignored. The focus of the Queen's anger was the notion that foreign powers might walk into member states of the Commonwealth, especially without prior warning. And she was irritated with the Prime Minister for letting the Americans get away with it.

A further indication of the difference was presented in the Queen's 1983 Christmas broadcast, which showed the Queen reflecting on her experiences at the recent Commonwealth heads of government meeting in New Delhi. To the head of the Commonwealth and her staff, it seemed natural to highlight current developing-world concerns.

"The greatest problem in the world today," the Queen declared, "remains the gap between rich and poor countries, and we shall not begin to close this gap until we hear less about nationalism and more about



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I'm sorry, did I hear you correctly?



Miles Kingston

Yesterday morning I received a letter from Mr Topham of Herne Bay that started:

"This time I write via inkjet tinted with a hint of cholera..."

That is as far as I got with the letter. I stopped there, not because I was afraid to find out why he was writing to me choleraically, but because of the sudden realisation that although I have often seen the word "cholera" written down I have never, as far as I know, heard it used in

conversation. There are some good words in English for the process of losing your cool, such as temper, rage, ire, fury, wrath, irascibility, and one hears them all used from time to time, except perhaps "ire", but one never hears "cholera". One sees it but one never hears it. Why not?

Well, because it is old-fashioned, of course. It belongs to a family of words like hile, gall, spleen, vapours, and so on, which are felt to belong to an outmoded part of medical history. "Choleric" is as out-of-date as the apoplectic 19th-century squire it conjures up, and words do go out of fashion quite quickly and irrevocably (you only have to think of other words that have become dated within living memory, such as "fab", "brill" and "socialism").

But the real reason you don't hear people using the word "cholera", I am sure, is that it sounds too much like "collar". When two words mean quite different things and yet sound identical, the odds are that one of them will slowly take second place

to the other. There really isn't much chance that you will seriously confuse "cholera" and "collar", as they tend to be used in different contexts, yet, if I were to read out the beginning of Mr Topham's letter to an audience, when they heard the words "This time I write via inkjet tinted with a hint of cholera", I do not think many listeners would straightaway recognise "cholera" as "cholera".

Other examples? Certainly. If you see the word "kohl" written down, you probably know that it means a kind of powder used to darken the eyelids. But have you recently heard it referred to in conversation? Almost certainly you haven't, and it is equally almost certainly because in conversation it sounds like "coal" which, by coincidence, is another powdery dark substance which you would hate to have used on your eyelids. Incidentally, I looked up "kohl" in a dictionary just now, just to make sure, you know, and there I encountered several other

adjacent words that we never use in conversation, unless we are playing *Call My Bluff*. For the first time in my life I have encountered "Koff", meaning a two-masted Dutch fishing vessel, "Koel", meaning a kind of Asian cuckoo, "Kob", meaning water-antelope, and "Koan", which apparently means a problem with no logical answer, used for meditation by Zen Buddhists. (That must include the old Zen problem, "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" Wasn't it comedian Shelley Berman who said, "I know that sound far too well!")

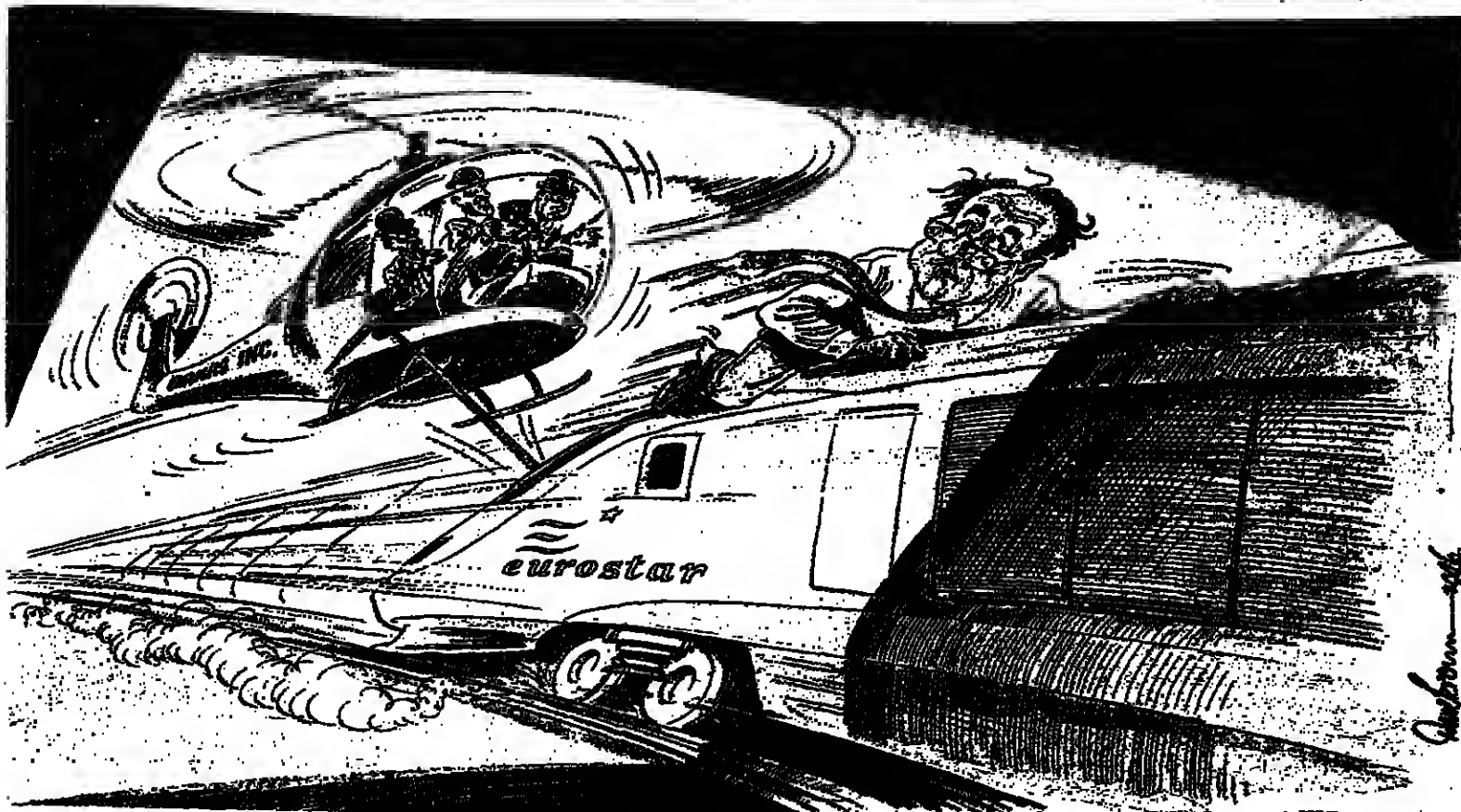
Those words are unused partly because we talk so rarely about Dutch fishing boats, and water-antelope, and above all, surely, because the words would cause real confusion with "cough" and "coal" or "kohl", with "cob" and with "Coben", a possible confusion that is enough to condemn many words to extinction. The word "dolour", again, is never used these days, even though its French cousin "doleur" is still thriving.

and I think it must have something to do with the fact that it sounds just like "dollar". You see "discrete" written down but you hardly ever hear it spoken, and that must be because of confusion with "discreet". The useful word for the worldwide Jewish community, "Jewry", is heard less and less, and this must be because it sounds like "jury".

Of all the seahorses I hear talked about, three of the least mentioned are skuas, terns and petrels. Is it a coincidence that they sound oddly and confusingly like skewers, turns and petrels?

(There is a great store-house of British humour depending on these misunderstandings, of course, whether involving accidental jokes such as "Gladly the cross-eyed bear" or deliberate misunderstandings along the lines of "Jamaica"? "No, she went of her own accord.")

Still, that's enough time spent on the first line of Mr Topham's letter. Now on to the second line. Well, some other time, perhaps.



Mission Impossible: Sir Alastair gets the banks in tow (with apologies to Tom Cruise)

MICHAEL HARRISON

The board of Eurotunnel last night approved a deal to restructure its £88m debt mountain that sharply dilutes existing shareholders but leaves them in control for the time being and saves the Channel tunnel operator from receivership.

Eurotunnel said yesterday that it had reached agreement with its banks on the basic principles of the restructuring plan.

Under the refinancing agreement, the banks will swap a portion of their debt - likely to be between £2.5bn and £3bn - for a 49 per cent stake in Eurotunnel. There will also be an issue of convertible bonds which would enable the banks to take a majority shareholding of 75-80 per cent although Eurotunnel is thought to have held out for the right to redeem the bonds provided financial targets are met.

Details of the deal will not be announced until early next week but it is thought that the price at which the banks will

convert their debt into equity is less than 150p per share.

Eurotunnel's co-chairmen, Sir Alastair Morton and Patrick Ponsolle, had been pressing for the conversion to take place at around the 255p price that it last issued shares in its 1994 rights issue. But the banks have been insisting that the conversion price should be based on Eurotunnel's market price. The shares stood at 115p before trading was suspended on Monday morning.

A source close to the negotiations said: "You can take it that the conversion price is closer to the banks' figure than Eurotunnel's."

Other elements of the debt for equity swap are thought to include share warrants and stabilisation notes which repay debt from a percentage of the tunnel's cash flow.

The deal, thrashed out by Eurotunnel and a steering group of six lenders, representing Eurotunnel's 225-strong banking syndicate, should allow shares

in the company to resume trading early next week.

However, Eurotunnel's 750,000 shareholders will not be able to vote on the restructuring until early next year while it might take until March or April to get the agreement ratified by all members of the syndicate.

Despite the dilution that existing shareholders will suffer and a warning from the French shareholders group Adact that it would oppose the restructuring, a Eurotunnel source said: "We would not have agreed in this deal if we did not have more than a sporting chance of selling it to our shareholders."

Other Eurotunnel sources have likened the task of reaching agreement to "Mission Impossible". Negotiations began a year ago when Eurotunnel unilaterally suspended interest payments on its debts, then running at £1m a day. Sir Alastair said a month ago that he would give it until the end of October to reach agreement with the bank and then retire.

Free shares for members as life insurer confirms its stock market decision, but will they benefit in the long term?

Norwich Union to seek £4.5bn shares listing

NIC CICUTTI and PETER RODGERS

Norwich Union, one of the UK's oldest insurers, yesterday announced plans to become the first mutually owned life company to seek a stock market flotation, giving its 2.9 million members a shares payout worth at least £500 each.

The company said its plans, due to be implemented before summer next year, were aimed at creating better value for policyholders, while also giving it greater scope for expansion.

Allan Bridgewater, group chief executive at Norwich Union, said: "This is a good day for [our] members. Norwich Union will be well placed to take full advantage of the substantial opportunities emerging as demographic changes increase the need for private funding of retirement and other welfare benefits."

based on the size of its overall pot, up to an unspecified maximum. Qualifying members will be given the right to buy an additional amount of shares at a preferential price.

Those not benefiting from the bonanza will be the company's motor, household and other general insurance policyholders, 600,000 health and medical insurance members, unit trust and PEP investors.

Norwich Union also an-



Allan Bridgewater: 'This is a good day for our members'

Mr Bridgewater refused to comment on the likely valuation of the company, claiming this was dependent on stock market sentiment next year.

Experts suggested the company would be valued at up to £4.5bn, with £2bn handed out in free shares and the rest being raised by the issue of more shares on flotation.

Among the policyholders qualifying for shares are those with life and term assurance cover, both with-profits and unit-linked policies, personal pensions and annuity holders.

Company pension schemes will count as one member. Each will receive a share allocation

announced plans to shut out so-called "carpetbaggers" by declaring that policies issued from yesterday would not qualify for the handout.

Because of the time needed to prepare for a flotation next year, Norwich needs to dispatch an outline proposal to members immediately.

A full circular will be mailed in the spring of 1997, with an extraordinary general meeting expected about one month later.

er. By then postal votes will have been counted and, if in favour, High Court approval will be sought for the float. A full listing is expected by the summer.

About 15,000 policyholders whose plans mature between now and flotation next year will not qualify for shares. However, the company said yesterday that an extra bonus would be declared on most with-profit life and pensions policies maturing before that time.

Mr Bridgewater said the rationale for the float was that the company's general insurance business, which contributed about 40 per cent of UK premium income, was owned by the life fund and made up about 6 per cent of its value.

"General insurance has been profitable over the long term, but there has still been a significant exposure to the risks of volatility and the cyclical nature of the business," he said.

In addition, the Department of Trade and Industry, which controls the valuation of life fund subsidiaries, valued Norwich Union's general insurance business at £480m. This was £250m less than the subsidiary's net assets, and affected the company's financial strength and therefore the ability to invest its funds as appropriate.

Flotation would also give Norwich Union access to capital it needed to expand its activities, Mr Bridgewater said.

Mr Bridgewater said staff reductions were not likely.

An information line has been set up on 0645 444818.

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TOP 10 PERFORMERS			
Number of above average products			
M=mutual status	Past performance combined with future projections	Projections only	
M Equitable Life	9	15	
General accident	7	10	
M Norwich Union	6	10	
M Standard Life	6	9	
M Scottish Mutual*	3	7	
M Clerical Medical**	3	6	
Commercial Union	3	6	
M Friends Provident	2	7	
M Scottish Provident	2	3	
Standard Life	2	2	

BOTTOM 10 PERFORMERS			
Number of below average products			
M=mutual status	Past performance combined with future projections	Projections only	
Royal Insurance	5	9	
Sun Life	3	9	
Prudential	3	7	
M Friends Provident	3	7	
Britannia Life	3	6	
AXA Equity and Law	2	10	
Guarantee Financial	2	9	
M Medical Services	2	7	
Commercial Union	2	5	
M Scottish Life	2	5	

Footsie surges beyond 4,000

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares broke through the psychologically important 4,000 barrier for the first time yesterday amid optimism that economic growth and subdued inflation would mean higher corporate profits in the foreseeable future.

The index closed 22.9 points higher at 4015.1, having pushed through 4,000 in the opening minutes of trading. More than 750 million shares changed hands, in heavier trading than in recent weeks when rises have often reflected dealers squaring their books rather than much underlying demand.

Shares were given a boost by falling bond yields as confidence grew that interest rates in the UK were not about to rise and expectations that rates in Europe had further to fall.

Attention focused on where the market would head now it had broken through 4,000, with the debate in the City boiling up between bears, such as PDM's Tony Dye, who have staked their reputations and billions of pounds of their clients' money on a major correction, and those who believe the market has further to go.

Peter Sullivan, a strategist at Goldman Sachs, said: "There are two conflicting forces at work. Market valuations look above any estimate of fair value, but against that there is a very positive economic outlook with above-average growth and lower-than-average inflation."

He said markets often remained either above or below fair value for extended periods. Goldman Sachs expects the market to be slightly lower in 12 months' time at 3,950 but does not rule out further rises in the short term.

On the basis of Goldman Sachs models, the London market is, on some measures, more expensive than when it peaked in July 1987, just before the crash that October. The average prospective price/earnings ratio of 15.2 compares with 14.7 in July 1987 and a long-term average of 12.6.

On the dividend yield, however, the market does not look stretched. Compared with the 3.8 per cent yield in 1987, shares now offer a 4.2 per cent yield.

Mutuals score best against the rest

PETER RODGERS and NIC CICUTTI

Norwich Union is among a large number of mutual life insurers serving their policyholders better than competitors set up as conventional companies owned by outside shareholders.

An analysis exclusively for *The Independent* by John Chapman, a former senior official at the Office of Fair Trading, shows that at the top of performance league tables, mutuals outnumber proprietary companies by a wide margin.

He said: "This shows the strength of the mutuals. After all, they ought to outperform this year from the OFT after writing several reports on the life industry, has developed a sophisticated analysis that allows for this. He has ranked 15 products including 25-year mortgage repayment policies, regular premium and single premium pensions and unit-linked investments."

Mr Chapman's results confirm that mutual insurers are far more likely than proprietary companies to be top-ranked performers, and much less likely to be near the bottom.

He said: "This shows the strength of the mutuals. After all, they ought to outperform

the proprietary companies. They do not have to give away 10 per cent of their earnings in transfers to shareholders."

Three of the top four in Mr Chapman's rankings - Equitable Life, Norwich Union and Standard Life - are mutuals. Six of the top 10 are also mutuals, and further company, Scottish Mutual, was mutual until four years ago.

At the other end of the scale, four of the bottom five are proprietary companies and they are among the biggest names - Royal, Sun Life, the Pru and Britannia Life.

Their excellent performance raises questions about who is being served

flect their ambitions, but often are not supported by past performance. The end result is, however, very similar: four of the top five are mutuals and four of the bottom five are proprietary.

Mr Chapman's mutual versus proprietary company rankings start with company data prepared by the magazine *Money Marketing*, which has adopted his analytical methods.

The primary determinant of policyholder returns, whatever stage up to maturity they cash in their policies, is the total amount of charges levied by the

insurers on their customers over the years.

Investment performance is also important. But the charges reduce the overall yield by varying amounts, from 1 per cent a year to 5 per cent a year at maturity, and for those cashed in early the reduction can be 10 per cent a year or more.

It takes a truly miraculous investment performance to overcome the handicap of higher charges over a period of years.

The projections published by the insurers of how much their policies are worth at various stages up to maturity give the best measure of charges.

Financial regulators insist these are based on standardised estimates of investment returns. Therefore the differences in the projections reflect variations in companies' charges.

Mr Chapman combines projected future performance with actual past performance, thus ranking them (in the first column of each table) by the number of products above average on both scores. If companies promising good returns have done well in the past, this gives credibility to their projections.

The second column is based on companies' future projections alone, but it still confirms the success of the mutuals.

The process has been repeated with companies that score worse than average, to give a similar ranking at the opposite end of the scale.

Brent Walker man 'paid £500,000 for hiding false profits'

MELVYN HOWE
Press Association

A Brent Walker executive was paid a £500,000 "reward" for orchestrating a "massive cover-up" of millions of pounds of false profits in the company's leisure and entertainment empire, a court heard yesterday.

Auditors, solicitors and investigators were lied to, and fictitious documents created to back up the falsehoods, it was

claimed. Money was laundered through a "tortuous" route involving America and the Bahamas, Southwark Crown Court was told.

The exercise even included appointing a dead man to head a company, said Peter Rook QC, prosecuting.

Architect of the cover-up was Donald Anderson, a former finance director of Brent Walker's film and television arm, Goldcrest, he claimed. Mr

Rook told the jury they would see that, figuratively speaking, the 43-year-old chartered accountant's fingerprints were all over the concealment operation.

Mr Anderson, of Tudor Lodge, The Green, Richmond, Surrey, denies one count of attempting to pervert the course of justice between 1 August 1988 and 23 October 1990.

Mr Rook said Mr Anderson, who joined Brent Walker in 1987 and allegedly took part in

the later stages of the false profit taking, "played a key role as architect of the cover-up."

"Time and time again, when one looks carefully at the evidence, we find documents in relation to the cover-up which have strong links to Mr Anderson," Mr Rook said.

They included a "blueprint" of the operation on his computer at Goldcrest. Two schedules in his handwriting were recovered and shed light on his

involvement in the alleged laundering of £12.5m of Brent Walker money, Mr Rook said.

Mr Rook said an article published in *The Independent* said a Jersey-based offshore company, Universal Talent Management, was involved in the false profit-taking.

It was controlled by Brent Walker executive John Quesada, but after the publicity it was moved to the Bahamas and a false "cover story" put forward

that it was headed by a man called John Love. "Why was John Love chosen? Because he was dead... a convenient person to be put forward because he would not be around to answer questions," Mr Rook said.

The Inland Revenue launched an inquiry into Brent Walker's finances, and by December 1988 the Serious Fraud Office was conducting an investigation. Anderson allegedly "kept them at bay" by

channelling further falsehoods through the accountants and Brent Walker's solicitors. Eventually, the SFO called off its investigation and Anderson was "well rewarded", said Mr Rook.

The trial continues today.

STOCK MARKETS						
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4015.10	+22.90	+0.6	4015.10	3632.30	3.90
FTSE 250	4434.20	+24.40	+0.6	4588.80	4015.30	3.44
FTSE 350	1998.00	+11.40	+0.6	1998.00	1616.80	3.80
FT Small Cap	2175.81	+4.54	+0.2	2244.36	1954.06	3.12
FT All Share	1971.32	+10.65	+0.5	1971.32	1791.85	3.75
New York	5926.52	+21.82	+0.4	5904.90	5032.94	2.17
Tokyo	21498.90	+35.63	+0.2	22686.80	19734.70	0.741
Hong Kong	11951.98	+30.66	+0.3	11951.86	10204.87	3.401
Frankfurt	2676.50	+20.77	+0.8	2676.50	2253.36	1.741

INTEREST RATES						
Short sterling*						
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
UK	6.88	6.25	7.47	8.00	7.61	8.12
US	5.31	5.81	6.58	6.10	6.65	6.44
Japan	0.47	0.69	2.83	2.35	2.85	2.84
Germany	3.09	3.19	6.02	6.55	6.84	

CURRENCIES									
£/\$			¥/DM			₹/¥			
<small>Other Dollar exchange rates and DM Dollar October at 1200 hours</small>									
Pound									
	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago		Yesterday	Change	Year Ago		
\$ (London)	1.5675	+0.29c	1.5626	£ (London)	0.6380	-0.11	0.6322		
\$ (NY)	1.5630	unch	1.5617	£ (NY)	0.6398	unch	0.6319		
DM (London)	2.3935	+0.63c	2.2717	DM (London)	1.5270	+0.12c	1.4363		
¥ (London)	175.188	+¥1.036	159.631	¥ (London)	111.750	+¥0.455	101.050		
₹ (India)	87.3	+0.3	85.2	₹ (India)	97.6	+0.1	94.1		
OTHER INDICATORS									
	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago	Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Month	Flags	
Oil Brent \$	23.28	+0.25	16.02	RPI	153.1	+2.1pt	149.9	10 Oct	
Gold \$	390.40	+1.70	382.95	GDP	108.1	+2.27pt	106.7	26 Oct	

mediocrity

WARNING.

See tomorrow's paper

سكزا من الأهل



Why leave these mutual benefits behind?

Alan Bridgewater, chief executive of Norwich Union, puts his case for demutualisation and flotation on the stock market in such a compelling and plausible manner that it seems almost childish to challenge him. There's no-one else to do it, however, so here goes anyway.

First, here's why Mr Bridgewater believes this is the way to go. He is not against the mutual structure of ownership as such, he insists, it is only that it has become inappropriate (always a nice word that) for a company such as Norwich Union, which with its substantial general and healthcare insurance business is much more akin to a company insurer than a traditional life mutual.

According to Mr Bridgewater, this general insurance business sits uneasily in a with-profit mutually owned life fund. It is cyclical and volatile and therefore a source of some danger to the life fund, he claims. Moreover, the Department of Trade and Industry values it at just £480m for the purposes of the fund, when on the open market it would probably be worth three or four times that amount. Policyholders are thus exposed to an inappropriate business which is failing to deliver value.

Up to a point all this is true, but whether it justifies going through the whole caboodle of demutualisation is another thing. The promised free shares are a nice little windfall ahead of the summer holidays, but set against the long-term value of an endowment policy, even the top whack of perhaps £2,000

worth of equity is not very much. As a consequence, the decision for life assurance policyholders is a much more difficult add complex one than it has been for building society members.

As our tables opposite show, there do seem to be real and tangible benefits derived from the mutual structure of ownership for life policy holders. It is by no means clear that they gain anything from conversion. Indeed the evidence is rather the reverse. Ah, but it will be different with us, says Norwich Union, which is admittedly already one of the top performers with one of the most efficient cost structures in the business. The point is, however, that it has achieved this position as a mutual, not as a joint stock company. Indeed, the proprietary structure seems on the evidence positively to encourage inefficiency and excessive costs. In the worst cases, these companies are little more than commission-driven rip-off operations, designed to enrich their shareholders and employees. No one would suggest that Norwich Union might become like that, but it is as certain as night follows day that in future it will be shareholders that management works for primarily and not policyholders.

Beyond the free shares, it is hard to see what Norwich Union members gain from this exercise. Despite realising what will presumably be a full value for the general insurance business, they are not, perhaps significantly, being promised any more

than "existing policy expectations". So why do it? It's just possible that this is being forced on Norwich by financial weakness in the life fund, which needs recapitalising even to meet "existing expectations".

But part of the answer must also lie in Mr Bridgewater's belief that plc status is the most effective corporate structure to achieve "our business objectives". Whilst these are no doubt noble and worthy, it scarcely needs saying that they are not a good reason for converting. Whatever the Norwich board has in mind for the general aggrandisement of East Anglia, it is largely irrelevant to policyholders' interests.

In the end, policy holders need only ask themselves one question. Why should they give up a structure which appears to have served their interests far better over the years than the proprietary form of ownership they are being invited to convert into? Certainly we need better answers to this question than we have had. But let's not be naive about this. Regardless of whether Norwich can improve its case, short termism will triumph, and the free shares will be enough to persuade members to vote this through.

Channel tunnel is a licence to print money

Yippee. That's how we come, Sir Alastair Morton may find himself short of people to pick fights with in the South Pacific.

whence he intends to go to unwind after his Herculean efforts in rescuing the Channel tunnel from the abyss (again).

Never mind, he and Eurotunnel's shareholders can content themselves instead by reflecting on a job done, who knows, perhaps even well done.

We do not yet have the details of how Eurotunnel's £8bn debt burden is being redistributed. As usual in cases like this, it will not be a pretty sight for shareholders, who began with such big promises and high hopes and now find themselves with an unpleasant case of dilution on the high seas.

But we do at least know that shareholders will still be afloat and left clenching more than just their free travel perks when the next few days. Ever since he decided to stop making the loan repayments a year ago Sir Alastair has been repeating a couple of familiar adages: 'We're In This Together' and 'No Gain Without Pain'.

He has been around bankers long enough to know that if there is one thing that they hate, it is running businesses as opposed to telling others how to do it. And he has played his hand well. Moreover, pulling the plug on Eurotunnel would not have gained the banks a single extra penny of revenue while leaving them with 750,000 aggrieved shareholders to placate, many of them customers in another life.

The price at which their debt is likely to be swapped may not be as attractive as it

could have been six months ago but it stands comparison well with the price at which Eurotunnel last issued equity two years ago.

What's more there are a series of carrots to give both sides the incentive to make the most of the tunnel. If Sir Alastair's successors can meet performance targets, they will probably keep control. The virtue is that the better they do they more likely they are to hang on and the bigger becomes the cash-flow to service investors new and old. It may have taken Eurotunnel the best part of a decade to get to the point where its finances are on an even keel. But one thing is certain.

Now they are the Channel tunnel will increasingly become a licence to print money. Eurotunnel is already at the point where it is making operating profits after depreciation but before financing costs.

Once the ferries have consolidated and prices have hardened and Eurotunnel is short of the debt it could never service, the tunnel will be a lucrative proposition indeed. Undoubtedly, there will be elements in the banking syndicate who are tempted to hold out in the hills in the hope of wringing a little more out of Eurotunnel shareholders. With a syndicate spread out across 225 lenders in 17 countries, it would be amazing if that were not the case.

They should bear in mind another adage: it ain't worth spilling the ship for a ha'pworth of tar.

\$2bn takeover bid for TNT shakes up Australian market

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

KPN, the largest postal and telecommunications company in Holland, yesterday launched one of the biggest takeover bids ever seen in Australia when it tabled an A\$2bn (£1.02bn) offer to buy TNT, the Australian transport company.

The bid, which would create one of the four largest transport companies in the world, has been unanimously recommended by TNT's board. TNT has been performing poorly in recent years.

David Mortimer, TNT's chief executive, said yesterday: "This proposal represents an outstanding opportunity to create a strong global transportation group."

Speaking in Sydney, Wim Dik, chief executive of KPN, said one of KPN's key objectives from the proposed takeover would be to expand in Asia. The Dutch company, which until 1989 was owned by the Netherlands government, has a wide presence in Europe and is list-

ed on stock exchanges in the Netherlands, Britain, New York and Frankfurt. But its exposure to the rapidly expanding Asian market is limited.

"This is a gigantic step for us," Mr Dik said. "It fits nicely in the strategy we have outlined to grow in markets outside of Europe and to grow quickly. There is a big shakeout going on and we want to be there for it."

The announcement on Wednesday morning caught the Australian market by surprise. TNT shares soared 80 cents, or 49 per cent, to close at A\$2.43.

In Holland, too, the market jumped higher as news of the bid was absorbed. Dealers welcomed the move, saying it gave the Dutch telecom giant more of a global position, adding transport and logistics to its core telecommunications activity.

KPN shares closed up 1.70 guilders at 60.60, although still below the year's peak of 68.50.

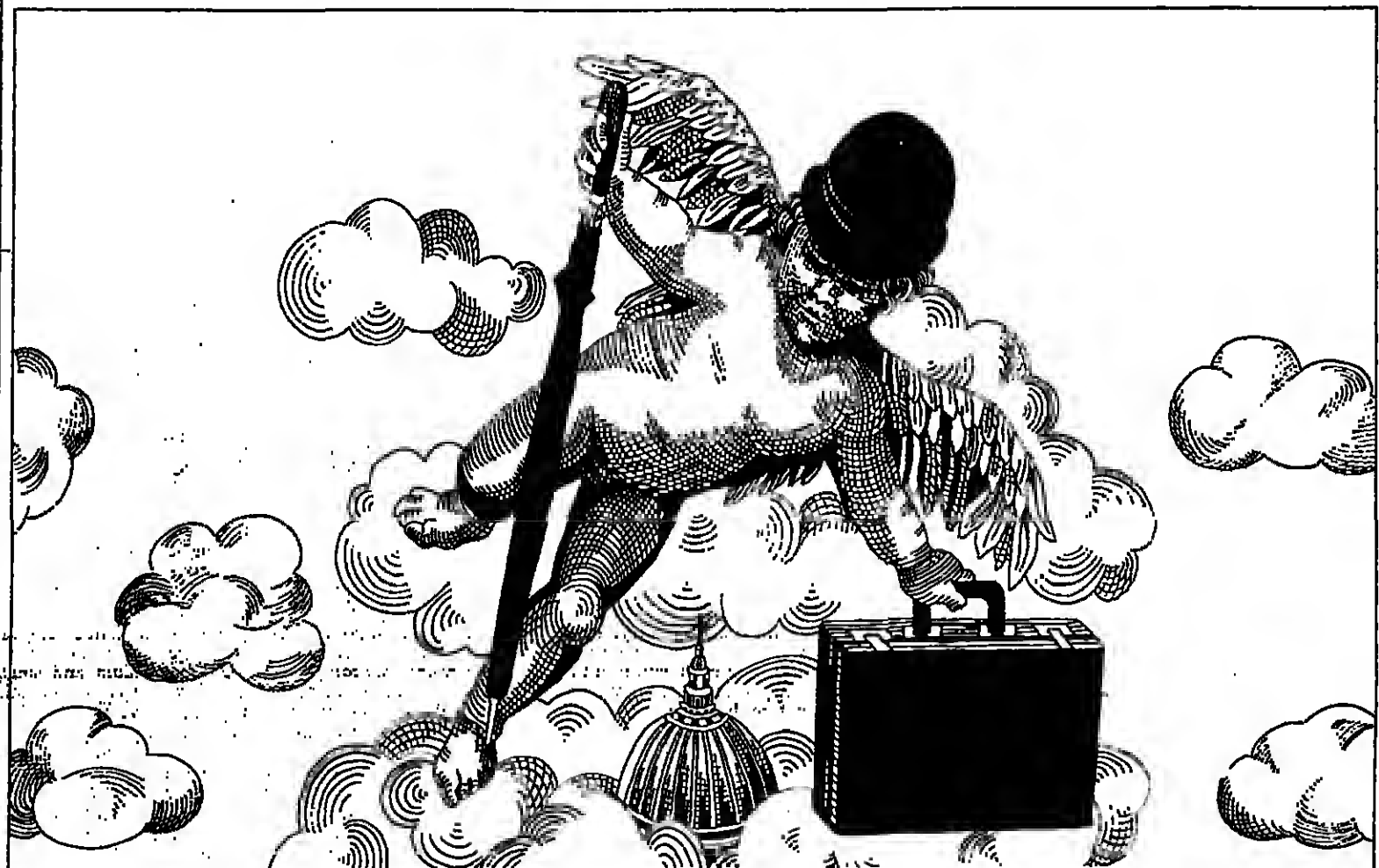
The bid came only days after TNT completed the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Ansett Australia Holdings, an airline, to Air New Zealand for A\$470m.

TNT had blamed weak returns from Ansett and certain other assets for a sharp 75 per cent fall in its after-tax earnings last year to A\$9.8m.

Mr Dik said KPN had waited for the Ansett sale to be finalised before making its bid. KPN will finance its takeover with a A\$1.7bn revolving credit facility underwritten by Goldman Sachs, its corporate adviser.

The main assets of the merged company will include: TNT's domestic time-sensitive distribution and logistics businesses in Italy, Germany, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Australia and Asia; KPN's PTT Post domestic time-sensitive distribution and logistics businesses in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Denmark as well as its international mail service; and

GD Express Worldwide, an international time-sensitive freight business that is 50 per cent owned by TNT and 50 per cent by GD Net, which in turn is 54 per cent owned by KPN and 46 per cent by Swedish



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Lang gets report on BA alliance

MICHAEL HARRISON

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday received the Office of Fair Trading's report on the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines setting out the concessions needed in return for allowing the deal to proceed.

The OFT is thought to have concluded that the alliance would operate against the public interest and should only be approved without a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if the two airlines agree to surrender take-off and landing slots and other facilities at Heathrow airport.

The report may also have recommended that Mr Lang impose restrictions on transatlantic routes where BA and American would otherwise have a total monopoly.

Mr Lang is expected to reach a quick decision on the proposed alliance although some observers believe he may wait until after the Conservative Party conference, before announcing his decision.

Without approval for the alliance Britain and the US will not be able to sign an open skies agreement across the Atlantic opening up Heathrow to more American carriers and greater competition.

However the BA-American link up has faced unprecedented opposition from rival airlines and consumer groups alike. Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic and United Airlines, the biggest carrier in the US, have both opposed the deal, as has the Consumers' Association, which argued that the alliance would entrench the dominant position of the two carriers.

IN BRIEF

• UK house prices fell a seasonally adjusted 0.1 per cent in September from August but were up 5.2 per cent from a year earlier, according to Halifax Building Society. It said the fall "reinforces our view that house prices are continuing to recover but the boom in house prices which occurred in the mid to late Eighties is not being repeated".

• Rothschild took the top slot by value and UBS rose to fourth position by number of deals in *Acquisitions Monthly's* UK mergers and acquisitions league table for the first nine months of the year. Rothschild advised on eight takeovers worth £8.4bn while UBS advised on 14 worth £5.45bn. Separate rankings by Securities Data Company of the US put UBS at the top of the table for acquisitions in the UK by home or foreign companies, with \$16.35bn worth over the same period compared with \$2.75bn a year earlier.

• Harrods' plans for a £2bn stock market flotation are understood to have been suspended. The Knightsbridge store has not abandoned the idea entirely but has decided to get more trading periods under its belt first. However, it is thought that Harrods will still press ahead with plans to develop a 400,000 square foot site adjacent to the existing store and convert the nearby depot into a Harrods Hotel.

• Orange netted 86,000 new subscribers in the third quarter to September, bringing its customer base to 459,000 and its share of the total UK cellphone market to more than 10 per cent. In the third quarter, traditionally the quietest month, Orange said growth was over 20 per cent higher than the same period last year. Its customer base has grown by over 70 per cent since the start of the year and increased its estimated market share from 7 per cent at the end of 1995 to over 10 per cent. Graham Howe, finance director, said "We have been achieving 30 per cent of net growth for some time and we will strive to improve on that. To take 30 per cent in a four-player market is testament to the value of our mobile offering."

• Thistle Hotels pitched its flotation at the bottom end of expectations, settling for a 170p offer price despite the announcement last week from Merrill Lynch, co-ordinator of the sale, that it had received good indications of support at 185p. In conditional dealings yesterday, the shares closed marginally higher at 172.5p. The 4 star hotel company is valued at just over £1bn at the float price, with £237.6m being raised by the offer. Retail investors will have the first £1,000 of their applications met in full and will receive 75 per cent of the balance.

• Tesco is continuing to beat Sainsbury's in the supermarket battle for market share. Figures compiled by research group AGB for the four weeks to 22 September show that Tesco's share of the UK dry groceries market was 21.4 per cent, the same as the previous month. Sainsbury's share edged ahead to 19 per cent compared to 18.6 per cent in August. Sainsbury continued to gain ground up from 10.4 to 10.6 per cent. Asda also performed strongly with its share moving up from 11.9 per cent in August to 12.2 per cent in September.

• Shares in Pegasus fell 42.5p to 332.5p after the software company said it had called off talks with rival Sage about a possible conditional offer. In a statement, the company said it took the view that Sage's offer, which had been increased to 475p per share during the course of discussions, undervalued its medium term trading prospects.

business

Bank of Scotland looks south

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Over the centuries the Scots and the English have embarked on many a bloody battle. But in the cut-throat world of banking, the English banks have tended to fight among themselves, leaving the Scots to compete for business north of the border. The complacency of the English is proving costly, however.

The 300-year-old Bank of Scotland, which reported record interim pre-tax profits of £324.3m yesterday, is able to claim that its share of UK bank savings has climbed steadily from 3.52 per cent in 1980 to 7.39 per cent now.

That share has been distorted by Abbey National's takeover of National & Provincial, the former building society. Peter Burt, who has moved up to the chief executive's slot at Bank of Scotland, acknowledges his share will dip again next year when the Halifax Building Society swaps the sector following its stock market flotation and re-emergence as a bank. But he expects gradually to claw back that market share by offering a superior service.

This is why Bank of Scotland can stand back from the race to become a "bankassurance" group, being pursued by many other British banks, thus avoiding costly acquisitions of life insurance companies. Of course the bank needs to provide some add-on services in a world that increasingly requires consumers to take extra provision for their savings and old age.

But Mr Burt's Bank of Scotland will concentrate on packaging other companies' products to meet its customers' needs, rather than getting involved in the new process of integrating a whole new, and probably alien, business with the rest of the bank. The bank is currently tied in with Standard Life, which now owns just 2.8 per cent of the bank's shares after selling off a 29.2 per cent stake in the summer.

The bank may also need to link with another fund manager after British Linen Bank, its merchant bank which made profits of £7.0m in the first half, sold its stake in Dunedin Fund Managers.

It intends to use its new acquisition, BankWest in Australia, to push into the burgeoning economies of South-east Asia. It will also provide its expertise in telephone banking to boost telebanking in Australia and also at Countrywide, its New Zealand bank.

NWS, its Chester-based finance house, is one of the driving forces behind this tele-banking expertise. While the subsidiary can appear costly because of current expenditure on technology, income streams are rising and its customer lending rose 19 per cent in the first half.

The group managed to beat analysts' forecasts by raising income faster than

costs in the half year. Projections for the full year have accordingly been raised to £660m, putting the shares - up 9p at 264.5p - on a forward multiple of 8. A core holding in the sector.

Clubhaus brings golf back to life

Golf has been a graveyard in the past - for wealthy dreamers, companies and the banks that backed them. No surprise then that, despite enormous demand for the game and the relatively unprofessional management of most courses, there are only a handful of quoted companies seriously involved in the business. The appointment of David Lloyd to Clubhaus's board yesterday marks it as the most interesting of the bunch. Maiden figures since floating at the beginning of the year, showing profits of £728,000 from turnover of £3.15m, point to a company making the transition from asset-based development punt to measurable, earnings-based investment opportunity.

The background ought to be extremely auspicious. The number of registered golfers in the UK has grown sharply in the early 1990s, but despite the increased interest in the game, a yawning gap exists between cheap and not very cheerful municipal pay-and-play courses and the snooty, members-only clubs. Clubhaus's chief executive, Robert Bourne, likens the state of British golf to that of the American game maybe 30 years ago.

What the game desperately needs is an injection of professional leisure industry management to bring it up to date. That would include making clubs more family-friendly, combining courses with attractive fitness facilities (hence the David Lloyd appointment) and pushing non-golf spending such as food and drink. Only then will golf courses become viable financial enterprises.

Clubhaus is further down this path than anyone else and is on track to building a network of 12 to 15 UK courses to complement the three it has set up in France and Germany. Picking courses up from the receiver in a number of cases, at a fraction of their

replacement cost, it has paved the way for a satisfactory return on capital.

It is a very early day to judge whether Clubhaus has read the market correctly or whether it has the management depth to capitalise on the opportunity. If it has, though, it seems very unlikely that the likes of Whitbread and Rank would not snap the company up. The shares rose 7p to 74.5p yesterday, about where they floated. Interesting.

Less gloom at Hewden Stuart

Hewden Stuart, the UK's biggest plant hire group, was in uncharacteristically chipper mood yesterday. Having been proved right with three doom-laden prophecies over the past 12 months, it is now seeing the first glimmers of the upturn which it forecast with some confidence in April. This new-found confidence was behind yesterday's 7.5p rise in the shares to 143p.

But the figures for the six months to July show just how bad things have been since it first warned that the construction downturn would hurt the group. Pre-tax profits crumbled by a quarter to £14.7m as turnover held fast at £142m, an underlying fall of 4 per cent when acquisitions are stripped out.

Hewden is highly operationally geared. Its tough depreciation policy means that once its hire fleets reach a certain level of utilisation, virtually all the additional sales drop through to the bottom line. But the reverse is also true, so when rates dipped to around 60 per cent, as they did in the first half, the group suffered badly.

But as usual Hewden has acted fast in the face of recession, slashing its prodigious spending on new equipment from £45m to £23m in the six months. It now expects the year's outcome to be little different from depreciation forecast at around £38m.

Utilisation rates are now back up to the 65 per cent enjoyed in the second half of last year, with more optimistic noises being heard in the housebuilding sector and in the market for tower cranes. Hewden still remains heavily exposed to the much-pruned road-building industry and to work for Scottish local authorities.

Even so, the group is well placed for the expected upturn. One or two small acquisitions currently in contemplation should help fill in gaps in coverage of the south. In the meantime, full-year profits of £29m would put the shares on a prospective multiple of 20. High, but probably justified by the prospects.

HTV's bid for Westcountry falls well short of £70m

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

HTV has tabled a bid for Westcountry, the ITV licence holder for the South-west of England. It is understood that at least one other ITV company, possibly two, has also expressed interest in the company. Carlton or United News & Media are the most likely candidates.

HTV, which yesterday unveiled interim profits of £6.7m, up 10 per cent, is believed to have bid far less than the £70m hoped for by Westcountry's bankers, Lazard Freres. Meanwhile, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees declined to bid, claiming it made no strategic sense.

Westcountry's owners, including the Daily Mail & General Trust, Brittany Ferries and South West Water, decided earlier this year to seek a flotation or sell the company to a trade buyer. Since then, Lazard contacted several ITV companies, encouraging them to bid.

HTV is believed to be the most logical buyer, as it holds a contiguous ITV franchise in Wales and the West, and already handles transmission services for Westcountry. But analysts suggested yesterday Carlton was likely to have put in a bid, as a first step toward achieving its objective of buying HTV, a long-mooted acquisition target. Carlton had no comment on its intentions toward Westcountry and HTV.

United News & Media, owner of the sales house TSMS, which handles ad sales for HTV and Westcountry, is thought to be interested in Westcountry, and even HTV, to protect the share of national advertising revenues handled in-house. The company declined to comment yesterday. But an insider confirmed: "Of course we've looked at [Westcountry], and the sale house is part of it. But there are no jewels there, no great synergies, so we have to ask ourselves some questions."



Chris Rowlands: Hopes lower licence payments after renewal in 1998 will help to increase profits at HTV

Taken together, HTV and Westcountry represent about 8 per cent of national advertising revenues, and TSMS would be concerned about losing that much market share.

In its results statement, HTV said its Harvest Entertainment arm, which groups its rights development and acquisition activities, saw operating profits soar by 19 per cent. Operating margins were about 30 per cent in the broadcasting division, before taking into account the high licence fee the company pays to the Treasury.

Louis Sherwood, chairman, said: "Our commitment to developing and growing our rights business has been wholly justified by Harvest's continuing

role as a major driver of growth within HTV."

The company expects to cut costs further over the next year to 18 months, partly through the introduction of digital technology for its news gathering operations and partly through lower payments to ITN for its share of the national news service. In addition, Chris Rowlands, the chief executive of HTV, said the likelihood of lower licence payments following renewal in 1998 would enhance profits further.

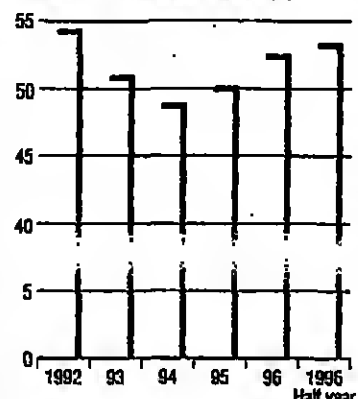
The company declined to comment on the Westcountry bid, or the possibility of a bid by Carlton or United for HTV.

BANK OF SCOTLAND - AT A GLANCE

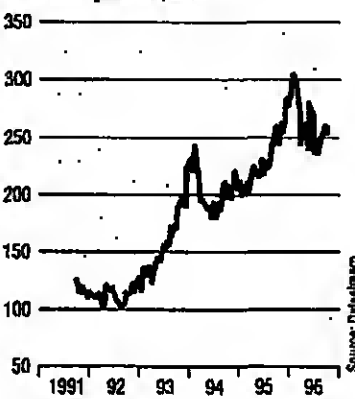
Market value: £3.14bn, share price 263.5p

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1996
		Full year		Half year
Turnover (£m)	1,14	1,29	1,43	0,67
Pre-tax profits (£m)	269	450	545	261.6
Post-tax profits (£m)	12.2	22.3	25.8	12.8
Dividends per share (pence)	5.05	5.82	6.85	2.45

Cost to income ratio (%)



Share price pence



COMPANY RESULTS			
Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bank of Scotland (1)	324.3m (261.6m)	15.0p (12.9p)	2.51p (2.45p)
Blenheim (1)	102.8m (92.1m)	30.7m (13.1m)	18.1p (6.1p)
Hewden-Stuart (1)	141.7m (131.8m)	14.7m (12.7m)	3.25p (5.0p)
HTV Group (1)	68.1m (66.4m)	8.7m (5.1m)	5.7p (5.0p)
Johnstone Group (1)	70.82m (65.82m)	1.65m (3.8m)	7.50p (22.67p)
JJB Sports (1)	55.13m (37.54m)	7.24m (4.82m)	5.03p (3.45p)
Lament Fridge (1)	58.90m (55.96m)	2.1m (7.8m)	4.08p (17.95p)
Time Products (1)	49.31m (38.63m)	8.1m (5.5m)	11.29p (7.02p)

(1) - Full (2) - Interim (3) - Nine months

Shareholders put pressure on Blenheim to sell

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Blenheim was silent yesterday on the progress of the revived bid talks for the exhibitions group, understood to be with the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant Reed Elsevier, as it announced more than doubled profits. But industry observers said they expected an early announcement, given what is thought to be heavy pressure to

sell being applied by some of Blenheim's biggest shareholders.

The new bid approach, revealed on 16 September, came after the failure of discussions with both United News & Media, the newspapers to money-broking group, and Reed. It was thought that the talks broke down over price, with Reed said to be offering near 480p a share and Neville Buch, executive

chairman of Blenheim, holding out for 500p or more. One analyst suggested yesterday's news that profits had soared from £15.2m to £30.7m in the first half would have little effect on the negotiations. "The whole thing is swinging on whether Neville Buch will accept an offer lower than he was previously offered," he claimed.

With a renewed bid from United thought to be low on the

media group's list of priorities, analysts said most of the pressure to sell was coming from shareholders. "It is coming from one or two institutional shareholders, Compagnie Generale des Eaux [which owns a 15.5 per cent stake] and some elements within the company." There were suggestions that the American lazzari family, which holds 12 per cent of the shares, and Patrick Lecetre, with a 5 per cent holding, were

sellers, although not necessarily at the lower price being mooted. Both are represented on the board.

Their shareholdings result from the sale of family businesses in the US and France respectively, both areas which have suffered drastic cuts in senior management as Blenheim has wrestled to improve the performance of the group.

Cairn in £185m Australia oil bid

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Cairn Energy, the fledgling Edinburgh-based oil group, yesterday took an important step towards maturity after unveiling an A\$365m (£185m) bid for Command Petroleum of Australia.

The deal, to be part-financed via a two-part rights issue to raise £135m, will give Cairn access to a big oil producing asset in India to complement its existing gas find in Bangladesh. The cash call is for a maximum of one new share at 360p for every three held, with the first call due to raise £33.2m. This is the latest in a string of calls on shareholders, the most recent being for £50m in July. Cairn's shares rose 22p to 394.5p yesterday.

The bid for the Australian-quoted Command, which is 33 per cent owned by Snyder Oil & Gas of the US, has effectively been agreed by the board. Cairn has an arranged an option over a 19.9 per cent stake held by Snyder, the maximum allowed under Australian rules, and expects Snyder to sell the rest of the holding. The Cairn offer is worth A\$1.10 per Command share, with a two-for-13 share alternative.

Bill Gammell, Cairn's chief executive, said the group saw emerging markets for energy in Bangladesh and India. "We are already in Bangladesh and we think two plus two might equal four and a half or even five."

Command's main asset is a 22.5 per cent interest in the Ravva oil field in the Bay of Bengal. Currently in the start-up phase, Ravva is producing 13,500 barrels a day, rising to 35,000 by the end of the year. Subject to government permission, output will rise to 50,000 barrels a day by next year.

Further production of 20,000 barrels a day will come in next year from a field in Yemen, in which Command holds a near-12 per cent interest. Other assets are in Tunisia, Papua New Guinea, India, Australia, Mongolia, with further production in Russia. Including its Sangu field in Bangladesh, estimated by analysts to contain 1 trillion cubic feet of gas, Mr Gammell said Cairn's reserves would total 300 million barrels of oil equivalent after the acquisition. By 1997 or 1998, total group production could be between 45,000 and 50,000 barrels a day.

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

Bank of Scotland Interim Results

	6 months ended 31 August 1996 (unaudited)	6 months ended 31 August 1995 (unaudited)	Year ended 29 February 1996
TOTAL PROFIT FROM GROUP OPERATIONS BEFORE PROVISIONS	£408.2m	£339.6m	£706.4m
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£324.3m	£261.6m	£545.0m
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES	£3,688m	£3,105m	£3,533m
TOTAL ASSETS	£46,140m	£36,837m	£44,099m
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	15.0p	12.6p	25.8p
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	2.51p	2.45p	6.85p

- Pre-tax profit £324.3 million - up 24 per cent
- Pre-tax return on average equity (annualised) 36.7 per cent
- Dividend increased by 18.8 per cent
- Cost:Income ratio 52.9 per cent



For a copy of the Bank's Interim Report please contact: Public Relations Department, Bank of Scotland, The Royal Exchange, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ.

Sabotage suspected as Maples' airship promotion is deflated

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Grahame Winter, managing director of the furniture retailer Maples, has been having a spot of bother with promotional airships. A key part of Maples' development strategy is to open larger out-of-town stores. And when the company opened its new branch in Reading it hired an advertising blimp to help fly the flag, so to speak.

Everything was going very well and Mr Winter was very pleased with the publicity. But then Mr Winter received a telephone call informing him that someone had shot the thing down. To make matters worse the blimp did not simply plummet to earth but started to drift.

With Heathrow Airport only a few miles down the M4 corridor the airship was starting to look like serious aviation hazard. Air traffic control had to be alerted until the blimp was safely grounded. Mr Winter is not a happy man. "I suspect the work of a competitor," he says.

Richard Hyman, the laid-back head of retail consultants Verdict Research, stunned the sector yesterday when he made his first public appearance since shaving off his beard.

The retail guru unveiled his new look at Verdict's conference, "The Price of Quality" held at London's Hilton hotel. Asked what made him take to the razor, Mr Hyman admitted that the decision to end 23 years of facial hair was not his own. His girlfriend made him do it.

Though he looks years younger, Mr Hyman is slightly concerned that friends, clients and even his own children no longer recognise him. "I feel weird,"



Sky-high: Grahame Winter's airship advertising stunt ended with Heathrow air traffic control being alerted

City analysts pondering rumours of a merger between beleaguered food retailers Kwiksave and Iceland have wasted little time dreaming up a new name for the national new company: Kwiksand.

A contrite media baron? It can happen. Yesterday none other than Ted Turner apologised to the Anti-Defamation League for comparing Rupert Murdoch to the "late Führer". Mr Turner, whose company, Turner Broadcast-

ing System, is being ingested by Time Warner in a \$6.5bn dollar deal, made the remark to reporters in New York last week.

In his letter to the ADL, he said that his Führer analogy was inapt and "trivialised a profound historical tragedy". The comment, he said, was "offensive" and "referred only to the way Hitler managed the news in Germany".

Roger Cork, son of the late insolvency guru Sir Kenneth Cork, has been confirmed as

the new Lord Mayor of London. He will be admitted to office on 8 November.

Mr Cork is a senior partner at Moore Stephens, where he is head of the firm's corporate recovery and insolvency practice. The theme of his year in office will be "Making Britain even Greater".

"I think Britain needs to get back its faith in itself," he says. "I think people who work in the City feel that it is the best place to work and the premier financial centre but I'm not sure people outside London feel that. We want to put the pride back in being British."

Mr Cork will be promoting both London and UK plc on visits to Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and India next year.

Sir Matthew Goodwin, the former chairman of plant hire group Hewden Stuart, astonished his former colleagues when he appeared in the office with a chainsaw. Workers feared it was part of a brutal new approach to corporate downsizing or that the Tory party bigwig had alighted on a fresh method of chivvying along party donations.

In the end it proved to be no Glasgow chainsaw massacre. Sir Matthew is part of a project to re-forest Scotland and was presumably planning a spot of thinning.

The chainsaw adds to an already impressive array of weaponry with which Sir Matthew is regularly seen. He also steps out on the Lanarkshire hills armed with a Canadian spear, which is used in the planting of trees.

Nigel Cope

business

Wages hold steady as Americans take more McJobs

The joke going the rounds in pre-election America is that Bill Clinton has created 10 million jobs - and three of them are mine. On the face of it, the joke is just self-delusion. The "Help Wanted" signs are a common feature in store windows in the nation's capital, Washington DC, so it is no surprise that the US unemployment rate has been falling for four years to become one of the lowest in the industrial world.

Figures out last week showed that household income rose last year for the first time since 1989, and the proportion of Americans living in poverty fell for the second year running.

Yet there is little sign of the rising wage rates that would be the normal effect of increasing demand for labour. This is why two weeks ago Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, decided there was no need to raise interest rates. Since he is the man who has been more right about the US economy more times than anybody else, it is worth paying attention to his view that something has changed in the American labour market.

Some of the clues about why this might be true are hidden in those income and poverty figures.

According to the Census Bureau, the median household income rose to \$34,074 in 1995, a 2.7 per cent increase. Top incomes rose by more - good news for the one in five delegates to the Republican Party convention in San Diego who makes more than \$1m a year.

It was the first increase in median incomes for 10 years and the biggest increase for a decade. Most



ECONOMIC VIEW
DIANE COYLE

of the rise was in the Mid-West, a region with a long way to bounce back from the impact of recession in its manufacturing industries. However, earnings for full-time workers, both men and women, declined. In other words, for household incomes to have risen, either more people within the household have been working or they have been working at more than one job. In fact, a comparison of the employment figures and job creation figures suggests that for every four

'Hispanics, not blacks, form the most deprived group in the US population, with a poverty rate above 30 per cent'

new jobs, roughly three additional workers have got employment. So the joke does have its truth.

The implication is that wage rates might even have fallen, if people are having to hold down more than one job to make a living. There is perhaps something in the charge that many of the new jobs for credit are McJobs. On the other hand, this does not seem to square with the Census Bureau's poverty figures.

They showed a significant decline last year. The number of people liv-

ing in poverty fell by 1.6 million to 13.8 per cent of the population, down from 14.5 per cent in 1994. Poverty rates for blacks and the elderly reached historic lows. The proportion of the elderly living below the poverty line dropped to 10.5 per cent, compared to 35.2 per cent in 1959.

Last year was the first time it had been lower than the rate for some time of working age. And for the first time, the poverty rate for blacks fell below 30 per cent, whereas more

than half the black population lived in poverty in 1959. Hispanics, rather than blacks, now form the most deprived group in the US population, with a poverty rate above 30 per cent. Hispanics' median income fell by a sharp 5.1 per cent last year, compared to a 2.2 per cent increase for whites and a 3.6 per cent rise in the earnings of black households.

It is the worsening position of the Hispanic population that might square the circle. Jeffrey Williamson, an economic historian at Harvard University, has compared the

trend increase in income inequality in the US with the late 1970s and late 1980s with the parallel growth in inequality in the late 19th century.

Both episodes took place in a context of a globalising world economy and rapid technical change, the two factors usually blamed for falling wages at the bottom end of the scale.

Neither turned out to be entirely responsible for 19th century inequality, however, according to Prof Williamson's research. Although technology played an important part, the key culprit was mass immigration.

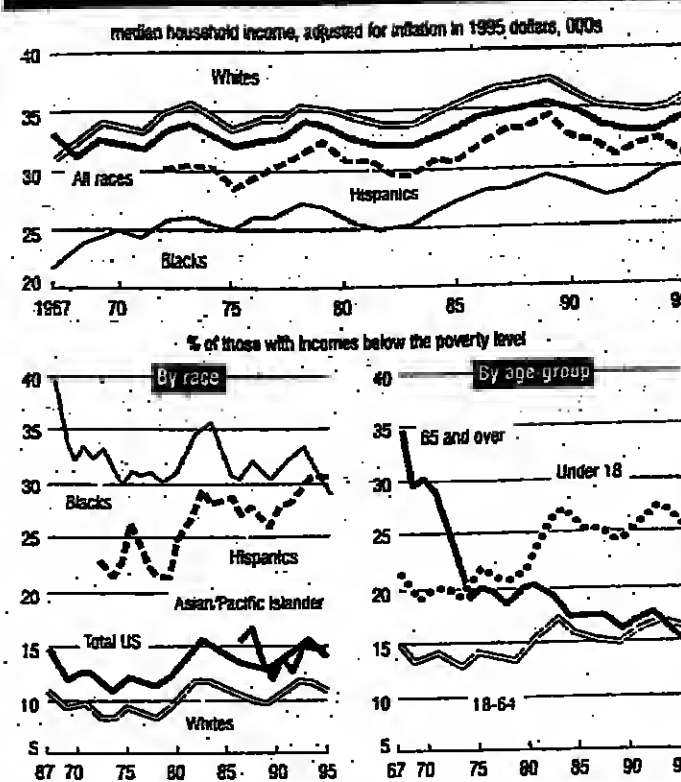
Immigration is the US political agenda with a vengeance, particularly illegal immigration from Mexico - from behind the Tortilla Curtain, as novelist T Coraghessan Boyle has put it.

The farewell legislation from Congress, before Representatives left to their re-election campaigns, included new restrictions on immigration, although a bid to bar incomers who could not prove they had a job paying an income of one and a half times the poverty level from bringing their families to join them ultimately failed.

The current Mexican wave of immigration, although much smaller than 19th-century migration to the great American cities, is precisely the kind of influx that might explain falling incomes in the segments of the labour market in which Hispanics are concentrated, whether regions like Texas and California or low pay service sector jobs.

And in fact, new restrictions on assistance to legal immigrants who

INCOME AND POVERTY IN AMERICA



have not yet become citizens will mean further falls in Hispanics' median income from this year.

There are other forces that could explain why a US unemployment rate as low as 5.1 per cent has not yet triggered any sign of wage inflation.

The Labor Secretary in the current Administration, Robert Reich,

has put forward two reasons for thinking that the "non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment" - in other words, the rate below which inflation will climb - is below the conventional estimate of 6 to 9 per cent. The range demonstrates just what an imprecise concept it is anyway.

But Mr Reich adds that compa-

nies' power to pass on higher costs as higher prices has been permanently limited by increased competition.

The increase in competition has come about because there is less advantage to bigness these days, thanks to new technologies, as small firms have moved into niches of markets formerly cornered by big firms.

Furthermore, he argues that the composition of the "value added" in goods and services is increasingly composed of knowledge or skill, and decreasingly composed of raw materials and energy. Thus final goods prices are less vulnerable to commodity price inflation than they used to be.

Be that as it may, keeping inflation low will still mean that wages must increase only slowly. So far there has been little sign of rising wage costs as the US recovery continues.

But the financial markets will continue to watch the earnings figure released with the monthly wage and unemployment statistics. The next batch is due tomorrow. Wall Street has fallen sharply five times this year on the publication of these crucial numbers.

No matter what the structural changes in either goods markets, as Mr Reich argues, or in labour markets, as the immigration debate highlights, there will come a point at which an additional drop in unemployment sets US inflation on an upward path.

* "Globalization and Inequality: Then and Now", *National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper* no. 5491, March 1996.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	156.46	7.5	12.9	1000	—	—
Canada	2.137	38.33	104.86	13625	16.17	55.53
Germany	2.3872	58.52	172.16	13258	31.29	98.95
France	8.0843	176.57	490.47	51670	90.85	273.263
Italy	337.59	43.58	125.47	5271	345.15	920.103
Japan	171.12	87.83	249.24	51.50	151.49	72.9421
ECU	1.5235	20.17	56.51	13493	15.14	44.45
Belgium	49.144	14.10	38.31	31410	75.55	213.182
Netherlands	2.8200	105.16	337.44	15558	99.79	299.347
Denmark	257.78	74.48	210.96	6307	121.15	363.79
Ireland	0.8781	1.3	4.6	5.4	—	—
Norway	10.74	10.70	270.10	62025	50.25	165.49
Spain	201.02	16.38	47.44	18248	16.20	49.48
Sweden	10.67	11.5	32.22	62622	41.16	152.101
Switzerland	19.14	79.71	219.20	12536	45.42	130.125
Australia	1.6734	19.20	59.47	12631	14.16	33.35
Hong Kong	2.0298	80.210	240.10	72322	2.0	2.7
Malaysia	3.9544	0.0	0.0	25225	27.30	80.95
New Zealand	2.2269	21.83	210.223	14294	54.56	97.99
Saudi Arabia	5.8900	0.0	0.0	3.7505	1.4	5.9
Singapore	2.2240	0.0	0.0	14087	24.19	70.65

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	156.48	0.0999
Australia	167.934	10.7334
Brazil	15.982	10.212
China	12.9522	6.3017
Egypt	5.2303	152.093
Finland	7.5022	4.5752
Ghana	2662.27	107.020
Greece	337.290	241.600
India	55.7781	35.6500
Indonesia	0.4997	0.0001

Forward rates quoted on a bank at a discount rate, adjusted for high inflation, are subject to spot rate fluctuations. Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 081 123 3033. Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 46p other times.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK Base	5.75%	US Prime	8.75%
France Discount	2.50%	Belgium Discount	0.50%
Germany Discount	2.50%	Canada Fed Funds	5.25%
Italy Discount	2.50%	Denmark 10-day Repo	7.25%
Netherlands Discount	2.50%	Sweden Discount	1.00%
Spain Discount	2.50%	Switzerland Repo (Ave)	4.25%

Bond Yields

Country	5yr yield %	10yr yield %	Country	5yr yield %	10yr yield %			
UK	7.1%	7.0%	Netherlands	8.1%	4.92	6.1%	5.1%	
US	6.9%	6.41	6.6%	Spain	10.0%	2.22	10.5%	7.8%
Japan	5.5%	2.6	3.4%	Italy	9.1%	7.89	9.1%	8.7%
Australia	6.1%	7.25	10%	Belgium	5%	4.93	7%	6.6%
Germany	5.381%	5.02	6.251%	Sweden	13%	6.56	6%	7.1%
France	5.1%	5.4	7.25%	ECU OAT	6%	5.27	7.1%	8.1%

sport

Hearing commentary from Aintree as he retrieved the ball, Shaw took longer over a throw-in than anyone in history

The comment "If I was a betting man, which I'm not of course... crops up so frequently across the airwaves and in print that you sometimes have to wonder how bookmakers manage to stay in business."

Seems there are a lot of people out there with the quite curious notion that moral debasement will be inferred from the act of striking a wager. If it is true that they have never risked anything on a horse's nose - and lost, and cursed, and walked up again to bet on the next race - they are missing out on one of life's more fascinating if often painful experiences.

Anyone in the habit of perusing what a distinguished American sportswriter, Red Smith, called the

"toy department" of newspapers will not be ignorant of the fact that fortunes were paid out at roll-up odds of more than 25,000-1 when Frankie Dettori brought in all seven winners last Saturday at Ascot.

Not to the heavy brigade, who doubtless considered this remarkable feat to be about as probable as coming across a generous bookmaker, but innocent types referred to commonly as mug punters. According to a Ladbrokes representative, quite a few were £26,000 better off for a small stake.

Unfortunately, they did not include my friend and racing guru Dave Prescott, who went to the Ascot meeting armed with information that the most likely of four runners being sent out by Guy Harwood was

Northern Fleet in the last. "If it takes your fancy, have a score (£20) for me," I said.

Recently, I fell into conversation with Prescott over the stupidity of idle betting. "How many times have you watched racing on television and had a bet just for the sake of it?" he said. "How many times have you set off with a clear idea, got ahead of the game and then suffered from the temptation to bet on every race?"

This was not the way of things last week, however. When acting on the information he had been given, Prescott found himself opposed to the making of history.

At odds of 9-1, Northern Fleet under Pat Eddery seemed to have a decent chance, and sure enough it



KEN JONES

came to threaten. "The place was in uproar," Prescott said, "and it felt as though I was the only one not shouting for Dettori on Fujiyama Crest." Beaten a neck. Another torn-up ticket.

Of course, losing bets make the best gambling stories. One con-

cerns a couple of characters who popped up in this column recently, the rascally Sully Gowers and Jimmy Logie, who captained Arsenal when one of the finest inside-forwards of his generation.

Having fallen out with the club's authorities, Logie took the extraordinary step of joining Graysend and Northfleet in the old Southern League. Seeking to repair the damage done by slow horses, Logie went for a handsome signing-on fee and three times the maximum wage of £20 per week that Football League clubs were then permitted to pay.

Logie teamed up at Graysend with another former Arsenal player and enthusiastic punter, Arthur Shaw, who was once advised by Sully to give up football, take three

months in etiquette and become his butler.

Acting on Sully's advice, and hurrying in other members of the team, they were on Devon Loch in the 1956 Grand National. Because the race took place 20 minutes after kick-off time, Shaw arranged for a friend to stand at the front of an enclosure on the half-way line so that he could be immediately informed of the result.

Hearing commentary from Aintree as he retrieved the ball, Shaw took longer over a throw-in than anyone in history. Devon Loch was clear at the Elbow and sounded a certain winner. All over bar the shouting. When this news was passed around, the joy was such that Graysend were soon losing.

Coming in at half-time, Shaw was puzzled by the sad look that greeted him. "It got beat Arthur," his friend said. "Flaming thing spread its legs on the run-in."

For a rather different reason I remember the 1983 Grand National vividly. Looking for a third horse to make up forecasts with Corbiere and Greasepaint, I came across the prediction that an Irish entry, Yer Man at 70-1, would get round.

Working for BBC Grandsstand, I listened to the race while watching a football match at Luton. "It's Corbiere, Greasepaint and third, Yer Man," I'd found the first three, written them down in the correct order but ignored the tricast. I still have a photocopy of the slip. Cost me, £14,000.

The quiet terrace revolution



The new breed of supporter is female, childless and coming to a game near you. Mike Rowbottom reports in the third part of our series

There is a new kind of football supporter in the British game. Female. Without children. Committed to a team which is hers, rather than her father's or her boyfriend's.

The evidence comes from the annual Premiership survey, the latest of which will be published later this month and which draws on 20,470 responses from Premiership supporters. 83 per cent of them season-ticket holders.

As with last year's survey, the indication is that one in every eight football supporters is a woman. It also appears to confirm that the improved atmosphere within most football grounds in the last few years has been a big factor in attracting women to the game.

But the new data, according to Professor John Williams of the Chester Centre for Football Research, offers a clearer picture of female supporters. "One of the main points the survey indicates this year is that it's wrong to equate female fans with the family," Williams said.

"Something like 35 per cent of the female respondents are in a long-term relationship or living with a partner, but don't

have children. There are some female supporters whose sons or partners are not interested in football. In certain cases, we see women escaping traditional domestic responsibilities - some are going to the game and leaving their partners to look after the kids."

Before widespread jubilation breaks out over the breaking of another stereotype, however, it should be pointed out that the survey also shows traditional areas of male domination remain intact.

"There seems to be more physical and cultural space for women at the smaller clubs," Williams said. "In the big city clubs, the commitment is more intense and the culture is more masculine."

The lowest female response to the survey came, as last year, from Everton, where only seven per cent of replies were from women. At clubs such as Sheffield Wednesday, Wimbledon, Coventry, Queens Park Rangers and Nottingham Forest, the female response rate was more than twice that figure.

One of those season-ticket holders who responded to the Premiership mailing shots was



Caroline Partridge, who has been a Coventry City supporter since her grandfather took her to see reserve matches when she was five years old. "It got into my blood, and it stayed," she said. "It's a habit which doesn't die."

Now 30, Caroline works in London, where she is a deputy catering manager at a University of London student hall. Her Saturday morning shifts just about fit in with watching her favourite team - a 10-minute dash gets her to Euston in time to catch the 12.15 train to her home city.

Following Coventry's fortunes since the days of Jim Blyth, Willie Carr and Ernie

Hunt has proved something of a trial for her - as it has no doubt for every other supporter. "They never seem to catch fire," she says diplomatically. The only time they did combust in a big way, when they won the 1987 FA Cup, she was unable to get a ticket as she was serving in Northern Ireland with the Army.

There has never been a question of her changing to another club. She met her boyfriend, Andy, while returning from a Coventry game.

He is a London-based Manchester City fan, but the thought that she might travel to see a different team of sky blues was not considered. "On a match day,

he goes in one direction, I go in the other." Bang goes another stereotype.

When Caroline goes up for a home game, she is often joined by her mother, Sheila, and says: "The season-ticket holders next to me all move up one." But there is no convincing her father, Tony, to join the party.

"He doesn't like football," she said. "We took him to a match at Nottingham Forest a few years ago when we got squashed and couldn't see the goals because of the floodlights."

Caroline often travels to matches with Sarah Robb, another member of Coventry's

London supporters group. Sarah, a 26-year-old secretary in the BBC sports department, has been watching the Sky Blues regularly since she was 14.

"At first I used to get asked why I wasn't shopping with my friends on a Saturday. But I just laughed it off. I said I would rather be here watching this."

Sarah, who edits the travel group's quarterly newsletter, Sky Blue Special, went out to Italy to support England in the 1990 World Cup and also saw England lose their crucial World Cup qualifying match in Rotterdam two years ago.

"That was the only time I've felt really threatened at a match," she said. "The Dutch

fans were throwing coins at us before the match, and then they threw a flare. Some of the seats around me got thrown back. I was hiding under mine."

Such scenes, thankfully, have not been repeated within these shores, although she does take some precautions. "I don't tend to wear my colours in the North-east, because they are so fanatical up there. We might not get any trouble, but we have to think of the lads we are with."

Sarah's boyfriend, Neil, is another Manchester City fan. And no, she does not even think about going to Maine Road instead.

Football, it seems, is finding a new bedrock of support.

Lee close to finding his man

Francis Lee, the chairman of Manchester City, expects to have a new manager in place within the next 10 days. Despite the string of rebuffs for the Maine Road post, Lee maintains that he has an extensive list of experienced applicants at his disposal.

"I would hope to have a new manager in place before our next game with Queens Park Rangers a week on Saturday," he said. "If we don't, I might have to get my own tracksuit out! But, seriously, negotiations are progressing."

Whoever takes charge will have to get City back into the Premiership or risk losing Georgiou Kinkladze.

Lee has always insisted that Kinkladze is not for sale, but he recognises that the midfielder might not wish to play another season in the First Division.

"Gio was at my house this week and he was quite happy," Lee said. "But perhaps he would not show for playing another season in this league."

Lee realises that his own future at City is being put in jeopardy by his willingness to talk to potential investors. "If people get total control of the club, they can pick their own chairman," Lee, who owns 29.9 per cent of the shares in City, said. "In any event, if the board here don't buy me as chairman, they can get rid of me."

Mark Guterman, the chairman of Third Division Chester, was expected to plough £3m into Maine Road in an effort to secure the future of Chester as a feeder club for the Manchester side. The announcement, however, was postponed because of "the delicate nature of the negotiations."

Lee remains optimistic and is looking forward to the challenge of the next few weeks. "We need to get things sorted out - and that includes the managerial front. That is part of the plan as well and we are hoping to get that sorted out before the next match."

Nolan puts accent on defence

Home for Ian Nolan used to be the non-League circuit, playing for such clubs as Northwich Victoria and Marine. On Saturday, however, the former Preston apprentice will step on to the World Cup stage with Northern Ireland when they face Armenia at Windsor Park.

The 29-year-old Sheffield Wednesday defender was called up after the Northern Ireland manager, Bryan Hamilton, did some detective work following his side's defeat by Ukraine in the opening qualifier last month.

Hamilton discovered that Nolan's grandparents came from County Antrim, and now Wednesday's left-back looks certain to switch sides in defence and make his international debut at Belfast in a match the

Irish dare not lose.

"My manager, David Pleat, called me into his office a couple of weeks ago," Nolan said yesterday. "Bryan Hamilton had been on the phone, wondering how I would feel about being part of the Northern Ireland set-up."

"I am delighted to get this chance as every player worth his salt wants to play at international level. Obviously I know a lot of the lads because I play against them in the Premiership, but I don't know any of them that well. The thing that is causing me the most difficulty is the Irish accent. I'm finding it hard to pick up what they are saying."

Nolan is in his third season at Hillsborough, after his former manager Trevor Francis spent

£1.5m to sign him from Nationwide League side Tranmere, who have missed out on a £200,000 bonus because he has opted to play for the Irish rather than wait for an England call-up.

Graham Mackerrill, the Wednesday secretary, said: "The agreement was that we would have paid a certain sum to Tranmere if he had been picked for England, not Northern Ireland."

Hamilton knows a victory is vital on Saturday as his side's next match involves a visit to the European champions, Germany, on 9 November. Armenia are widely accepted as being one of the weakest nations, although they drew 0-0 against Portugal in their opening qualifier.

Paolo Maldini, the Italy captain, has warned against treating Moldova and Georgia as lightweights in their qualifying group. "You have to be careful," he said yesterday. "It's up to us to make this an easy start."

Italy, who lost on penalties to Brazil in final of the last World Cup and failed to progress beyond the first phase of Euro 96, begin their Group Two qualifying campaign in Moldova on Saturday and are at home to Georgia on 9 October.

Maldini, capped 71 times, rejected suggestions he had been below form both for both Milan and his country this season. "I'm fine now and I was fine before. Negative judgements and positive judgements can both be exaggerated," he said.

Real Zaragoza want to replay the last 20 minutes of Sunday's Spanish League game with Barcelona which they had been leading 3-2 but ended up losing 5-3 after a linesman gave a controversial penalty.

Television coverage suggests that the linesman, Rafael Guerrero, mistook the Zaragoza defender Xavier Aguado for team-mate Jesus Solana, and that he may have been wrong to tell the referee, Enrique Mejuto, to award a penalty.

Zaragoza have also sent football authorities a video of what they believe to be a series of bad refereeing decisions made against them this season.

The Spanish league disciplinary committee suspended neither Aguado nor Solana in its

meeting on Tuesday. The incident has become a major talking-point in Spain.

Barcelona's Fernando Couto has been accused of over-reacting by falling to the ground when pushed from behind by Solana, a view apparently reflected even by the Barcelona coach, Bobby Robson. "Couto was intelligent, but not Solana," Robson said.

Meanwhile the obscenity-charged conversation between the two officials is becoming the stuff of legend. Atletico Madrid supporters chanted the more memorable phrases in Monday's game against Hercules.

Michael Robinson, the former Liverpool forward now a successful television commentator, also saw the comic side of

the incident. "If I were a bank robber, I'd like to have him as a witness," Robinson said of the linesman. Guerrero has seen his life in a remote rural region disrupted by telephone threats.

But he has turned down an offer of time off from his work as a caretaker at a school, which itself has been daubed with graffiti.

Gigi Maifredi, the former Juventus coach, has quit after just a few weeks as coach of the leading Tunisian side, Esperance. Maifredi's departure follows disagreements with club officials, sources said on Wednesday.

Maifredi, who made his name by taking Bologna to the First Division in the late 1980s, was in charge of Juventus during the 1990/91 season when

they finished seventh. He also coached Genoa and Brescia.

Vik Stutter, leaders of the German Bundesliga, scraped into the third round of the German Cup on Tuesday night, winning 6-5 on penalties after two players were sent off against the Second Division team Hertha Berlin.

The midfielder, Fabrice Muamba, has joined the exodus of French players to foreign clubs this season by moving to the Spanish First Division side, Rayo Vallecano, from Toulon for one million francs (£130,000). About 30 French players are playing their trade with foreign clubs this season. The traffic has been two-way, with 40 foreigners joining French First Division clubs.

McCracken cracks on

Boxing

Robert McCracken plans to make a rapid return to the ring after his successful Commonwealth middleweight title defence against the Canadian Fitzgerald Bruny at Aston Villa Leisure Centre.

McCracken extended his unbeaten record to 28 fights, comfortably outpointing Bruny on Tuesday, and he is now keen to build on that success.

The former British light-middleweight champion said: "I will be back in the gym very quickly and hope to be in the ring again in December. I am looking forward to making further strides in 1997."

"It is important I build on the fitness level I had for this fight as I don't want all the hard work to go to waste."

McCracken was relieved to overcome his rugged opponent from Toronto, whom he had beaten on points to win the vacant title last November.

He added: "I am sure that, throughout the rest of my career, I will never come up against anyone as awkward."

"I always felt in control. Even though I let him back into the fight in the sixth round, I was able to step up a gear after that."

McCracken, ranked No 2 by the International Boxing Federation, is likely to be guided towards a challenge for the European title by his manager, Mickey Duff, before bidding for world honours.

Duff said: "I have guided Robert to a Lonsdale Belt and Commonwealth title, and hopefully he will fight for the European title in six months and the world title later next year."

Self-interested game spits in the public's face

To the ecstasy of Baltimoreans and the misery of Clevelanders, the Orioles dispatched the Indians 10-4 in Tuesday's opening American League play-off game. But the talk of baseball is not Bobby Bonilla's grand slam homer which clinched the victory. It is the less excited matter of spit, or more precisely the expectation which Bonilla's team-mate Roberto Alomar delivered on Friday in the face of an umpire. Five days later, it threatens to disfigure his sport.

Spitting has a long history in baseball. The spitball is part of the sports legend, outlawed in 1920 but even now surreptitiously and occasionally practised. Players would spit tobacco, too (before that was banned in this anti-tobacco age), and many spit into the ground to relax during

an at-bat. What you do not do is spit at the umpire. That alone would have made the Alomar affair remarkable, even without his gratuitously offensive postscript that John Hirschbeck had become a "real bitter" since the death of his seven-year-old son of a rare genetic disease three years ago. When he heard about that remark, the umpire had to be physically restrained from attacking Alomar. Who can blame him?

Players and umpires squaring up is nothing new. More than any sport, baseball tolerates a measure of dissent. The ritual hardly varies: as in the Alomar case, a dubious third strike is called, a beefy batter protests to a big-bellied home-plate umpire, eyeball to eyeball they glare at each other, and the F-word

Rupert Cornwell reports from Washington on the affair that threatens baseball's play-offs

starts to fly. Blows and spit do not. At that point, either the manager intervenes and hauls the batter off to the dug-out, or the player and/or manager are ejected from the game. The worst that usually happens is suspension for a game or two.

This time, the American League (in which the Orioles play) gave him a routine suspension of five games. The player appealed, and the matter was put off to an unspecified date. The umpires were outraged and threatened to strike through the play-offs unless Alomar was suspended with immediate effect, ensuring he missed some games which really mattered. On

Tuesday a compromise was reached: the umpires would work that day and yesterday, while the AL agreed to advance its appeal hearing to today.

There matters stand. Given those who control baseball and their greed, selfishness and stupidity (the three guiding principles behind the eight-month players' strike of 1994-95), the rest of the post-season cannot be counted safe. "Scab" umpires may be drafted in, and if Alomar is given the punishment most people (including most Orioles fans) think he merits, then the Players' Union may down tools again. Incredible as it may sound, but in baseball anything is possible.

By any yardstick, a five-day suspension is a joke. Alomar is one of the finest baseball players of his generation - a graceful, full hitter from both sides of the plate, an electrifying baserunner, and a dazzling defensive second baseman. For these skills the Baltimore Orioles pay him \$6m (£4m) a year. Missing five out of 162 regular season games would be barely noticed by either club or player (other than the loss of \$180,000 in wages, a pittance for Alomar but more than the annual salary of a Major League umpire). To have meaning, a suspension would have to last at least a fortnight, and embrace at least some of the post-season.

That may yet be decided today. But almost anywhere else, in almost any other sport, punishment would be severe and automatic. For Paul Gascoigne, Alan Shearer or the journeyman Third Division full-back alike, a red card means suspension - even if the next game is the World Cup final. But baseball has long since dispensed with the concept of discipline. Since the owners sacked Commissioner Paul Vincent in 1992, the sport has been without an ultimate independent authority able to grasp the ethical and PR disaster the game's rulers were inflicting upon it with their handling of the Alomar incident. But baseball is run by self-interested factions of owners, unions, players' agents and lawyers. And now they are pouring. But does baseball care? No, it just spits in your face.

SPORT

'Direct face-to-face hostility is part of the manager's lot. Time numbs the nerve endings, but even those with skin the thickness of an old bull elephant have their sensitivity pierced at times' In tomorrow's Independent, **HOWARD WILKINSON** on the precarious life of a football manager



Afternoon delight: Matthew Le Tissier (left) and the coach, Glenn Hoddle (right), flank the England squad as they enjoy the novelty of extended training after lunch at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

England warming to week at Club Hoddle

Football
GLENN MOORE

The football pitches at Bisham Abbey are usually quiet by late afternoon on an England week, just a few advertising boards standing sentinel after the earlier exertions. The players would be back in the hotel playing cards, watching a video or trying to avoid Paul Gascoigne's practical jokes. But that was before Glenn Hoddle

became England coach. Yesterday his players were still on the training ground at 4pm, almost an hour after the session was scheduled to finish. England, under Hoddle, have gone Continental. Yesterday was the first of seven days building up to next Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Poland at Wembley. Week-long preparation periods have become more frequent in recent years but under Hoddle they are both more intensive and complete – unlike Terry Venables he will not be allowing his players home at weekends.

"We have seven days to prepare. If you are an international footballer, being together for that time should not be a problem," Hoddle said. "We will not be training every day, there will be a rest period – that is part of the preparation. But the players will be at the hotel every day." Hoddle wants a full week, partly because, as the new coach, he has a lot of ground to cover – and partly to ensure the players are not compromised by photographs of themselves in night-clubs in the early hours of Sunday morning. "They can still have a drink

at the right time," Hoddle said. "They are not schoolkids but it will be controlled – nothing over the top. There is a line to be drawn, but you do not want to let the players know where it is. This is the way they do it abroad for clubs and at international level. If we are going to do well then a certain amount of sacrifice is required from the players, myself and everyone. You cannot do it without that sort of dedication. That is what is needed. Others may see it differently but what is needed is the most important thing." Hoddle does not speak lightly

of sacrifice, though he probably lives closer to the team hotel than anyone, he will not be going home either. There are benefits on and off the pitch, Hoddle said. "It gives me time to work out characters and gives me more scope in training. I can work hard some sessions but also have relaxing ones. Seven days is enough to get the team spirit going and to do what we need. It will be broken up – we will train at Wembley and there will be a leisure day when they can play golf, go fishing or visit the cinema."

Steve McManaman agrees that the week together would help rekindle the mood of Euro 96. The Liverpool winger – who has even gone so far as to stay in the same room – said: "We've no problem with it at all. The players enjoy each other's company, there's plenty to do with videos, table tennis and whatnot." Hoddle added: "In an ideal world we would have seven days for every game but it is not an ideal world and I may have to be flexible." He already has in allowing Manchester United's three representatives to arrive today af-

ter attending a club function yesterday. Also missing yesterday's training were injury victims Dominic Matteo (knee), Robbie Fowler (ankle), Ian Walker (back) and Sol Campbell. The Liverpool pair are the more seriously troubled and Hoddle will decide at the weekend if they are fit. Ticket sales have gone past 60,000 for Hoddle's first home match as England coach. "I'm going to be very proud," he said. "I've had a great story with Wembley, I played there for England as a 21-year-old. I hope it continues."

One veteran commentator also thought back to those days and recalled Hoddle being one of a group of players revealed to be in a club late one night before an England game. The players initially denied the allegation only for Ron Greenwood, the then manager, to have said: "I don't know why they denied it – we did not have a curfew." They do say poachers become the best gamekeepers but Hoddle also has a sense of perspective. "The image [of the team and himself] is part of the job but not No 1. The priority is to qualify."

Dublin consortium contacts Dons Scotland lose Hendry

GUY HODGSON

Contrary to denials by Wimbledon's owner, Sam Hamman, negotiations have opened to move the club to Dublin. A consortium led by the manager of the rock group U2, Paul McGuinness, and a Cork property developer, Owen O'Callaghan, has made an approach to buy a 74 per cent shareholding with the long-term intention of taking the club to Ireland. The deal would cost the Irish investors around £20m, of which half would be made available to the manager, Joe Kinnear, for players. This would be on top of

the estimated £60m required to build a new 40,000-seat national stadium on land owned by O'Callaghan in Dublin. Planning permission has already been gained for the project, but the earliest Wimbledon could move in would be August 1999. Under the tentative plans, Hamman would retain 26 per cent of the club and would continue as chief executive. However, there is no guarantee that Wimbledon, who currently share Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park ground, would gain the sanction of the Premier League, the Football Association or the FA of Ireland. Salvatore Cuccu, a spokesman for

Uefa, European football's governing body, stressed: "Wimbledon are an English club with a home in England and Uefa is not in favour of them moving to a foreign country." Middlesbrough have told their Italian striker, Fabrizio Ravanelli, that he will not be going to Manchester United – or anywhere else. The 27m summer signing from Juventus sparked transfer speculation on Tuesday when he reportedly declared an interest in playing for United, who denied making a £10m offer for Ravanelli. Yesterday Keith Lamb, Middlesbrough's chief executive, said: "We have read and heard

the stories, but there is absolutely no truth in them." Ravanelli, meanwhile, said that he would be happy to sign a two-year extension to his four-year contract, if Middlesbrough wanted him to. Everton have lodged an official complaint with Fifa, football's world governing body, about the activities of an agent whom they claim has approached their winger, Andrei Kanchelskis, about a possible move to the Italian side, Fiorentina. Aston Villa have agreed to a transfer request from their 36-year-old Republic of Ireland defender, Paul McGrath. Brian Little, the Villa manager, said:

"I am open to offers for Paul, although, as yet, nobody has enquired." The asking fee is believed to be about £200,000. The Northern Ireland striker Phil Gray wants to leave the French club, Nancy, because of a contractual dispute. However, as part of the post-Bosman rules under which Gray joined Nancy for nothing from Sunderland, he is unable to return to a British club this season. The Leicester midfielder, Mustapha Ezzet, has abandoned hopes of playing World Cup football for Turkey – because he has to do national service in the Turkish Army before he can play for the national team.

Colin Hendry is the latest addition to Scotland's World Cup casualty list, and his absence increases the chance of Brian McAllister making his international debut in the Group Three qualifying match against Latvia in Riga. The Blackburn defender will today have a hernia operation, which will put him out of action for at least four weeks. That leaves Scotland's coach, Craig Brown, with another headache before the World Cup double header which concludes in Estonia on Wednesday. The Rangers strikers Ally McCoist and Gordon Durie were also ruled out yesterday from a party already without from Dun-

can Ferguson. The Blackburn forward Kevin Gallacher remains a fitness doubt as Brown ponders a call-up for Dougie Freedman, of Crystal Palace, or Bolton's John McGinlay. "You can add the likes of Paul McStay, Alan McLaren and even Craig Levein, who we have also had to do without," Brown said yesterday of the injury problems, which he refused to call a crisis. "We usually have about four or five call-offs from any squad. I'll make my mind up tomorrow about bringing in Freedman or McGinlay or even both. The call-offs are undoubtedly a blow, but I'm still cautiously optimistic that we can win both

games. However, we'll have to be at our very best to collect six points." The absence of Hendry leaves Calderwood, Boyd, Whyte and Wimbledon's McAllister competing for places in central defence. "I think I'd be very nervous if I did get pitched in against Latvia on Saturday, but it would be a great honour to play for Scotland," McAllister said. Andy Legg, the Birmingham winger, will make his home debut for Wales against the Netherlands in a Group Seven qualifying match in Cardiff on Saturday if Sheffield Wednesday's Mark Pembridge fails a fitness test today.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 308, Thursday 3 October By Mass

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- Curse money and steps taken to get into it! (10)
- A Scot's after good gradient in the mountains (9)
- Press Monsieur to enter draw (4)
- Crack soldier losing heart in retreat (6)
- Sunday gathering's boating (8)
- Ben! About right, like a spring (6)
- Girl in care? (8)
- River in East could be River Plate? (8)
- Getting back takes time (6)
- Arranges copy from litter in cases (3-5)
- Help out with staple, following letter (4-2)
- Musicians in the South American city (4)
- They take in the admass? (9)
- Completely absorbed by 'Rock'? (10)
- They're crackers concealing these! (3-4)
- Wait in line (4)
- Defenceless city needs outer cover (8)
- Former tax is reduced, evoking praise (5)
- Henry's ignored first-class bloomer (7)
- Increases stones round four parts of graveyard (10)
- Mug for each army type (6)
- Cupidity expressed by girl in callow letter (10)
- Animal, (horned) due to see red? (4-5)
- Slating's risky (8)
- Measure and black a ship? (7)
- Duck on branch, audible bird (6)
- Waste in river, clogging bed (5)
- Longs for topless girl (4)

DOWN

- They're crackers concealing these! (3-4)
- Wait in line (4)
- Defenceless city needs outer cover (8)
- Former tax is reduced, evoking praise (5)
- Henry's ignored first-class bloomer (7)

Brighton fans target Archer

Brighton supporters are to step up the pressure on the club's chairman, Bill Archer, by making a 250-mile trip to his Lancashire home to demand his resignation. Ian Hart, an official of the Brighton Independent Supporters' Association, said that a substantial number of fans will protest outside Archer's home in the village of Mellor, near Blackburn, the night before Saturday's Third Division game at Wigan. It is the latest part of the campaign to force Archer to quit after demonstrations during Tuesday's 3-1 defeat at home to Lincoln forced play to be halted for the first half for 13 minutes. Supporters are still angry at the decision of Archer and the Brighton board to sell the Goldstone Ground and also at the breakdown in talks with the consortium, headed by the businessman Dick Knight, which wants to take over the club.

Archer was unavailable for comment, but he will be waiting to see how severe the action to be taken by the Football Association will be after the hold-up when 150 supporters congregated in the centre circle after Lincoln's opening goal. At the very least, Brighton seem certain to have to play one match behind closed doors and have three points deducted – the product of the suspended sentence given to them by the FA after fans caused the abandonment of the game with York in April. Birmingham City have agreed to sell Mike Newell following his surprise transfer request after only 70 days at St Andrew's. After a meeting with the player yesterday, the City manager, Trevor Francis, accepted Newell's explanation that he wanted to leave for personal reasons. Francis said: "Basically he has not settled too well in the area. He has been in a hotel for a

couple of months and he is missing his family." The Nationwide League's First Division clubs have narrowly voted in favour of extending the rule that allows clubs to call off League matches because of international call-ups to include Under-21 players. Until now only clubs with three or more players in senior international squads could postpone fixtures. The change will be welcomed by clubs such as Charlton, Norwich and Ipswich, who have a string of talented young players, and by Cardiff and Wrexham, whose players form the backbone of the Wales Under-21 squad. Charlton's home game with Barnsley on Saturday has been postponed because the London club have Richard Ruxton and Shaun Newton in the England Under-21 squad, as well as John Robinson in the Wales senior squad. Ipswich against Swindon is also off.

Rusedski relying on his serve

Tennis

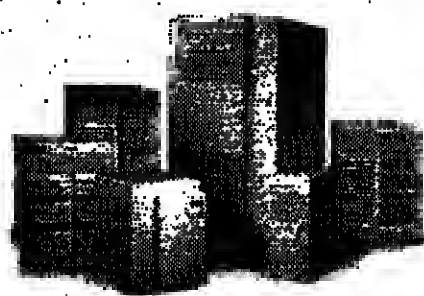
Greg Rusedski moved into the quarter-finals of the Singapore Open yesterday with a 7-6, 6-4 victory over South Africa's Grant Stafford to set up a meeting with Andrei Olhovskiy of Russia, who beat Sweden's Patrik Fredriksson 7-5, 6-2. Rusedski has never played the Russian before and said: "It will be a match between two big servers. I'll have to be serving well and I'll have to go for more on my returns." He and Stafford both held serve through their first set before Rusedski overwhelmed the South African in the tie-break, losing just one point. Stafford had several chances early in the second set, but Rusedski saved the situation with one of the 13

aces he fired during the 80-minute match. The French Open winner, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, stepped up a gear to beat Czech Petr Korda 6-4, 6-3 in the second round of the Lyon Grand Prix yesterday – and then said his best form was still to come. Kafelnikov, the second seed, had been stretched to the limit to beat another Czech, Daniel Vacek, in three sets in the opening round. "I played much better than yesterday, it was nearly perfect," he said afterwards. "But I'm not at my best yet." The fourth seed, Marcelo Rios of Chile, and the Swede Thomas Enqvist, seeded fifth, also progressed into the third round. Enqvist, who saved three match points in his first-round match against Australia's Jason Stoltenberg, beat the Italian

qualifier Gianluca Pozzi 6-3, 6-3. Rios cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom in just 52 minutes. Fresh from her Fed Cup victory with the United States, Lindsay Davenport defeated Barbara Schett of Austria 6-4, 7-5 in the first round of the Sparkassen Cup in Leipzig. Davenport, seeded fifth, faltered at the start of the second set and fell behind 5-2, but fought back to secure victory. "I want to win here and eventually I want to be world No 1," the 20-year-old said after the match. In second-round matches, Iva Majoli of Croatia defeated Silvia Farina of Italy 6-4, 6-2, and the unseeded Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic upset the eighth seed, Karina Haboudova of Slovakia, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2. Results, Digest, page 27

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